

Saudi hint of compromise may be ominous for U.S.

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Saudi hints of compromise with Iraq, while denied by Riyadh and de-emphasised by Washington, could be an ominous sign for the U.S.-led coalition arrayed against Baghdad.

Some analysts say they suggest an erosion of critical Saudi resolve to do what may be needed to reverse the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and could narrow U.S. options in the Gulf crisis.

"This was potentially very significant and disastrous for us," said Adam Garfinkel of the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

"The Saudis could offer a compromise diplomatic solution that would leave us hanging in the wind and would represent appeasement...without Saudi steadfastness, we have no war option, no way to keep together the (anti-Iraq) coalition and no excuse to stay there," he told Reuters.

Questions about Saudi Arabia's position were raised on Sunday when Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, in widely published remarks, suggested that if Iraq left Kuwait, the Saudis would not oppose legitimate Iraqi claims, even if involving territorial concessions by Kuwait.

Prince Sultan later claimed he was misinterpreted, a disavowal that struck Robert Neumann as plausible.

"This is playing two sides of the same issue," the former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia told Reuters in an interview.

On one hand, the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf puts Iraq under threat of a military strike while on the other hand, Sultan's comments "dangle before (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein that he could make a deal if he got out quickly," he said.

"The time during which military action against Iraq is most likely is between now and March, so all the...hinting has surfaced now in order to show

Saddam that either you get out or you face up to the military threat," he added.

The U.S. State Department played down any problem with the Saudis and insisted a 90-minute meeting on Tuesday between Secretary of State James Baker and the Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar, had long been planned.

It seemed both sides were trying to control as much as possible any perceived damage to their united anti-Iraq front.

"Sultan often says things off the cuff that can easily be taken out of context," one U.S. official said.

Bandar later went out of his way to meet reporters and proclaim: "Saudi Arabia has not changed its position at all."

"If Saddam Hussein is listening, he should not be under any illusion. We are determined not to let aggression pay. We don't think aggression should be rewarded, that's for sure."

President George Bush also was moved to reiterate his opposition to a deal with Iraq. "There can never be compromise, any compromise, with this kind of aggression," he said Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia's role is key because it was the kingdom's request for help that allowed Bush to send more than 200,000 troops to the Gulf as the bulwark of the multinational force.

If nothing else, the Saudi defence minister's remarks give weight to a perception that some members of the U.S.-led coalition are becoming increasingly nervous about the prospect of war with Iraq and want to find another solution.

"There has been ambivalence on the part of the Saudi leadership, particularly the defence minister, about the extent to which they will be able to control military action if and when it begins," said Pentagon consultant Ted Snyder.

"I think we are seeing an attempt by the Saudis to signal to the Iraqis that they would welcome an opportunity to step back from the brink," he said in an interview.

Israelis rush to buy guns

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis in occupied Jerusalem fearful of Palestinian revenge attacks are rushing to buy guns.

Shoppers at the city's main weapons shop Tuesday snapped up pistols, electric stun guns and more chemical spray canisters.

Store owners said gun sales had jumped 50 per cent since Sunday, when a teenage Palestinian stabbed to death three Israelis in apparent revenge for the police killing of Arabs on Oct. 8.

Sales of mace, a spray that immobilises attackers, and electric stun guns have doubled, they said.

Dozens of Israeli men and women crowded Magnum 88, a weapons shop in Jerusalem, pointing at pistols and fitting them around their ankles and wrists.

"My office is near the Old City where there are lots of Arabs. Nothing has ever happened, but why wait?" said Irit Tove, 33, as she examined a mace and a stun gun.

"I think I'll take the stun gun because I can pin it against my pants and just pull it out like a gun. It could be too late by the time I found the mace in my bag," she added.

Jerusalem has crackled with tension since the Oct. 8 shootings. It rose further on Sunday when an Arab construction worker stabbed to death three Israelis in a quiet West Jerusalem neighbourhood.

Between Monday and Tuesday, seven more Jews were attacked and wounded by Arabs throughout Israel and the occupied territories.

"Interest in guns has risen 100 per cent since Sunday while sales have gone up 50 per cent. Not everyone can get a licence to buy one," said Yitzhak Mizrahi, owner of Magnum 88.

"Lots of people were disappointed. They wanted to buy a gun to protect themselves but couldn't," he added.

Only civilians who live or work in Jewish neighbourhoods of predominantly Arab Jerusalem and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are legally entitled to own guns.

Anyone can buy a stun gun. A licence is required for mace sprays.

Mizrahi said pistols, his most popular line, cost between \$350 and \$600 and could be paid for in three interest-free instalments.

"If the stabber was within 90 metres, you could get him," Mizrahi assured one shopper peering through a pistol.

Some shoppers became irritated when a reporter asked why they should be interested in owning a weapon.

"In this day and age, what sort of a question is that? I'm afraid I have a wife and four kids. They (Arabs) are killing us here," said Amnon, 37, who lives in a Jewish area in Arab Jerusalem near several Arab villages.

Moshe Zvulun, 32, said: "You think I'm buying this for pleasure? I never owned a gun in my life."

His wife would soon carry a mace can, he said. As for his children, they should be guarded at school by armed police.

"What sort of life is this?" he asked as an afterthought.

Ex-congressman form group to counter AIPAC

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of former members of the House of Representatives say they have created a grassroots organisation to counter the pro-Israeli lobby which they say has too much clout on Capitol Hill.

Israel's supporters in Congress say the group's aims are misguided and pose serious danger to long-term U.S. strategic interests.

But board members of the newly formed Council for the National Interest disagree.

"What we in the 'movement' think is that the government of Israel exercises too much influence over the country (the United States), and particularly in Congress," said David Bowen, the council's executive director.

A former college professor with degrees from Harvard and Oxford universities, Bowen resigned from the House after 10 years in 1983.

The idea for the council came from Paul Findley, a former Republican congressman from Illinois who wrote a book about the pro-Israeli lobby entitled *They Dare to Speak Out*. In his book, Findley says he was targeted by the pro-Israeli lobby because of his stands on Middle East policy.

"Plain, ordinary Americans saw damage being done to our institutions," Findley said in a telephone interview.

Other board members of the group include former Congressman Pete McCloskey and John Anderson, both Republicans, and Martha Keys, a Democrat.

Anderson ran for president as an independent in 1980.

The council was created in a year when Israel's aid package — the largest given to a foreign country — has been questioned by senators including Robert Byrd, chairman of the Senate

Appropriations Committee. Yet Israeli aid in fiscal 1991 has remained at roughly \$3 billion, along with benefits worth hundreds of millions more. The Senate voted 97-1 to add \$700 million worth of American arms to the package for Israel.

Israel's backers on Capitol Hill say they doubted the group would have much success because its objectives were suspect.

"This is the same old group over and over and I have a strong belief that it is anti-Semitic," said Florida Congressman Larry Smith, a solid supporter of Israel.

The council said its goal is to promote peace in the Middle East, which it says the United States can achieve only by following an evenhanded policy in the region.

"Most harmful policies arise from our unusual relationship with Israel," the group said.

It supports placing conditions on further aid to Israel, a negotiated settlement to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and self-determination for Palestinians within a Palestinian state.

So far, the group has had little impact on Capitol Hill. Its main project has been a resolution seeking to force Israel to open Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The resolution has yet to clear either chamber.

Specifically, McCloskey said the group hopes to counter the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the pro-Israeli lobbying group.

An AIPAC spokeswoman said the committee would have no comment on the council.

The council was actively launched about six months ago. So far it has about 2,000 members nationwide, far short of its goal of 12,000.

Syria blasts France's policy as blackmail

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Wednesday accused the French government of submitting to opposition blackmail over Lebanon.

The Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand, has angered Lebanon's Syrian government by giving diplomatic refuge to ousted Christian General Michel Aoun.

Syria's official daily Tishreen suggested the political opposition in France find other issues to try to topple the Paris government.

It said a Paris campaign in support of Aoun "did not come out of humanitarian motives or for the interest of Lebanon... it is linked to the conflict between the government and opposition."

Aoun held one-third of a Christian enclave in east Beirut and opposed the internationally-backed Lebanese government led by he ousted in a Syrian-led assault on Oct. 13.

France gave embassy refuge to Aoun, but the Lebanese government prevented him from leaving and insisted he should be tried for war crimes.

The Syrian paper called Aoun "a renegade who destroyed many parts of this country, flooded its land with blood, blocked the peace process and pushed it towards partition and full collapse."

It said: "It is regrettable that this French government, which knows exactly what Aoun is, was intimidated by the

opposition and feared it would lose its popularity, so it retracted some of its official stand towards Lebanon..."

The paper advised the opposition there were several problems in France which could topple any government, adding that France should not settle its political problems in Beirut.

"The French government's submission to the blackmail of opposition to the extent that it abandons its foreign commitments puts in doubt the credibility of French foreign policy."

France, which ruled Lebanon for 20 years before World War II, has always played a role in the country's complex politics, frequently seen as a traditional guardian of the Christian minority.

In Damascus, the U.S. ambassador to Syria said Palestinian guerrilla groups in Lebanon had to be disbanded and disarmed as part of the Arab-brokered Taif peace plan.

Eduard Djerejian told a news briefing that Syria had assured Washington it would continue to abide by the Taif accord.

"Taif refers to all militias. All armed militias must be disbanded in Lebanon and that will apply equally to the Palestinian armed groups," Djerejian said.

Djerejian also expressed opposition to bringing Aoun to trial.

He said the decision to try Aoun was up to the Lebanese government, but added that "all old wounds should not be left open."

Angry men debate troops plan in Japan parliament

TOKYO (R) — In a drab, candle-lit, smoke-filled hall in Japan's musty parliament building, politicians met ministers and bureaucrats Wednesday for formal talks on a controversial plan to send troops to the Gulf.

Amid heckling, interruptions and repeated banging of desks, the 50 members of the lower house special committee on the U.N. peace cooperation bill debated Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's plan to send as many as 2,000 soldiers to the Gulf.

"Why can't you clearly say in the articles what kind of firearms the troops will carry?" Socialist Member of Parliament Kanji Kawasaki asked Kaifu in a raised voice.

"The grand design of this law is to cooperate in peaceful roles and not in offensive actions, and therefore I have repeatedly said they will only carry pistols and rifles," a stony-faced Kaifu replied in a monotone.

"Then isn't it simple to just say so in the articles?" Kawasaki retorted.

"We would like to study this later, carefully," Kaifu replied. At that point, what had just been an occasional bout of heckling from the opposition bench became a roar.

"What kind of bill is this if you have to study it?" The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) bench retorted, "What's wrong with studying it?"

Opposition parties say the plan violates Japan's anti-war constitution and that the Japanese contingent would be meaningless in the Gulf. Moreover, the bill, they say, is too vague.

South Korea and China, victims of Japan's past aggression before 1945, have also criticised Tokyo's plan to send troops

abroad for the first time since World War II.

Another debate between Kawasaki and Kaifu in this hall, called the first committee room, focused on the definition of the multinational forces now deployed in Saudi Arabia.

"The multinational forces are there to secure the fulfillment of U.N. resolutions," a beleaguered Kaifu told Kawasaki, who had asked about the legitimacy of the 300,000-member force as a U.N.-sanctioned force.

The debate, this time between Kaifu and Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary-general of the Buddhist-backed Komeito (Clean Government Party), then shifted to where the Japanese troops would be deployed.

Kaifu said they would not be sent to "dangerous" places and would strictly play a support role.

"What if the troops come under attack? Who will make the decision to make a move?" Ichikawa asked.

"The person responsible at the location will make the decision," Kaifu said.

At that point, a loud voice from the opposition bench echoed through the hall: "Well, what if they become another Kwangtung army?"

The Kwangtung army, a unit of the Japanese Imperial Army stationed in China's Liaotung peninsula, staged the Mukden incident of September 1931 as a pretext to seize Manchuria and set up a puppet state there.

They repeatedly ignored the emperor's direct orders to stop fighting. The Kwangtung army also provoked the exchange of fire that triggered the 1937 Sino-Japanese war.

The debate continues.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq to release five Swedes

STOCKHOLM (R) — Five out of 80 Swedish nationals held in Iraq will be released soon for humanitarian reasons, Sweden said Wednesday. "We have received confirmation that the five will be freed soon," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lars Olof Lundberg said. Iraq's charge d'affaires in Stockholm, Mohammad Said Hani, said the release was an act of courtesy to Stockholm which recently sent a foreign ministry official to Iraq to seek freedom for Swedes. He said the remaining Swedish nationals could possibly be released if Stockholm sent a higher ranking government official such as Foreign Minister Sten Andersson. "Why doesn't Sten Andersson want to go when for example Austria's (President) Kurt Waldheim has visited Baghdad?" Said Hani asked.

Iraq increases fuel ration

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq increased fuel allowances for trucks and buses Wednesday, a day after imposing rationing to combat U.N. sanctions. Heavy commercial vehicles will be allowed up to 180 litres of diesel a week, instead of up to 90 litres decreed Tuesday, state-run newspapers said. Their ration of lubricating oil will also be increased. There was no change in the 30-litre weekly petrol allowance for cars, which has slowed traffic in Baghdad to a crawl as drivers try to save fuel. Petrol rationing is blamed by Baghdad on a shortage of imported chemicals and additives used in refining. The government said rationing was necessary to ensure adequate fuel for Iraq's one-million strong army facing the multinational force in the Gulf. The extra fuel allowance should encourage private buses to ferry Arab and Asian refugees to Jordan, the newspapers said. Tens of thousands of foreigners have fled across the border since the invasion.

3 killed, 7 injured in Somalia protests

MOGADISHU (R) — Three people, including a policeman, have been killed and at least seven hurt in anti-government demonstrations in Mogadishu, the Somali government said. Hundreds of people demonstrated in commercial and residential districts of the capital Tuesday, smashing police road blocks and overturning vehicles. Sporadic gunfire began at dawn and continued until after midnight. Prime Minister Mohammad Hawadleh Madar told reporters that troublemakers trying to disrupt political reform looted several shops and businesses. He did not say how the deaths occurred. The protests were sparked by an anti-government leaflet distributed last weekend saying the government of President Mohammad Siad Barre had kept political prisoners behind bars despite having lifted harsh security laws earlier this month. The leaflets called on all Somalis to mark Oct. 23 as a day of protest. The feared national security court, which tried political and other crimes, was disbanded on Oct. 12, when a new and, on paper, more liberal constitution came into force.

Saudi female volunteers graduate in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — More than 800 Saudi women volunteers graduated Tuesday from first aid courses held at 15 medical institutions in Riyadh.

The course was conducted under a volunteer programme, which has drawn thousands of Saudi women. It was initiated by the Saudi government which sought to mobilise the population to face any threat from Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Opening the door to women volunteers was a dramatic event in the conservative Islamic society of Saudi Arabia.

Only women attended the graduation ceremony.

The graduates, the first in the capital Riyadh, donned the white coat. But many had their heads covered with a veil, according to women reporters who were allowed to attend the ceremony.

Princess Sultana Al Sudani, the wife of Riyadh Governor Prince Salman, was among the group that completed the course.

The women wore long cloaks and veils over evening dresses. They filed on stage to the tempo of Arabic music and the cheers of relatives and friends.

"I'm very happy to be helping my country," said Salwa Al Sheikh, a volunteer. "Our country gives us a lot. We want to give something in return."

"This is very important for women," said Princess Sara Abdullah Abdul Aziz Al Saud, a volunteer who plans to continue studying through a more extensive three-month programme.

"You feel something inside of you. I'm very proud of myself and of all the students."

Nuclear-free Mideast contingent on solution to conflicts, U.N. says

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The establishment of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East is dependent on achieving progress in the political conflicts of the region, a United Nations report states.

Without such progress "technical measures in the nuclear area or on other security problems will hardly be given serious thought, much less will they be developed, to provide, a meaningful barrier to tension and even war," the report says. Issued by the office of the secretary general Oct. 10, the report is a study on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

The report advocates the implementation of a series of confidence-building measures aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-free-zone in the Middle East. However, these measures can not take the place of finding solutions to regional conflicts through a political process, the report says.

Confidence-building measures "should be developed and installed in parallel with the political track, not as a substitute for it," it stresses.

Addressing regional security concerns is integral to implementing confidence-building measures, the report notes. States in the Middle East "will participate in a nuclear-free zone only if doing so would enhance their national security, or inversely, that refraining from doing so would impair that security," the reports says.

A regional commitment "that there will be no test explosion of a nuclear device, nor any other tests such as a necessary confidence-building measures, the report asserts.

Adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by all states of the region — notably Israel, "would be a significant milestone," the report states. "Clearly, there can be no nuclear-weapon free zone in the area until this has been done," the report states. Most states in the Middle East are parties of the NPT, but not Israel, Algeria, Mauritania, Oman and the United Arab

Emirates. Pending such a move, Israel should implement safeguards on its nuclear facility in Dimona, the report says.

NPT parties in the region could minimise suspicion by assuring that their nuclear programmes do not serve military objectives, the report states. To this end, NPT parties should avoid use of weapon-grade fissionable material, should invite inspection of any facilities that use significant quantities of nuclear material, and should declare their stocks of natural uranium, heavy water, and tritium, the report suggests.

The development of a regional understanding "that there will be no attacks on nuclear installations," is another confidence-building measure, the report states. "The problem of nuclear proliferation... should be dealt with seriously, but high explosives are not among the means that should be employed," the report says.

The report stresses the role of major outside powers and industrialised nations in moving towards a nuclear free zone in the Middle East. Unless these nations "put their weight and diplomatic skills unreservedly to the task, it is not likely that will be accomplished," the report asserts. Most importantly, leading industrialised states must "discourage any proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," the report notes.

The report also stresses the linkage among nuclear weapons and biological, chemical and conventional arms. It advocates adherence to the Biological Weapons Convention, the establishment of a chemical weapons convention, a freeze on missiles, and reducing conventional force levels as measures that will further a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

The non-proliferation of chemical weapons is particularly important, the report stresses. "If chemical weapons were allowed to proliferate widely in the Middle East, it is hard to imagine that general nuclear proliferation could be avoided," it states.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:50 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons
18:35 Documentary
19:50 News in French
19:55 Reports about Japan
19:55 News in Hebrew
19:55 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Harp of the South
21:30 Feature film: "Escape from Alcatraz"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Film continued

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:42 (Sunrise) Doha
11:20 Dhuhr
14:28 'Asr
16:58 Maghreb
18:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweetish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terrace Church Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assam International Church Tel. 827981, 885326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 64932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be rather cold and partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain in the northern and central parts of the country. Winds will be northeasterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp. 14 / 22

Aqaba 18 / 23

Deserts 15 / 25

Jordan Valley 16 / 28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 69 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bassam Karadshah 796200

Dr. Hamdi Zaraiji 78708

Dr. Munther Qarashi 77628

Dr. Sami Kheir 781373

Firas pharmacy 661912

Perdous pharmacy 723336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nasrath pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 649485

Shmiesani pharmacy 637660

DRBD:

Dr. Mahmoud Sa'eed (-

Jordan, Soviet Union review trade, economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Soviet economic delegation now on a visit to Jordan had talks Wednesday with Jordanian ministers and other officials about increasing the volume of goods exchanged between Moscow and Amman and the settlement of Jordanian debts to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet team, led by Vladimir Mordinov, reviewed with the Minister of Finance Basil Jarrah the implementation of a Jordanian-Soviet trade protocol, signed in February 1989, enabling Jordan to sell the Soviet Union products worth \$42 million as part of the Kingdom's repayment of debts to Moscow.

The minister said Jordan was ready to cooperate with the Soviet Union in this regard and to provide the required commodities.

Jordan and the Soviet Union last year held talks in Moscow. At the end of the talks agreement was reached in principle to reschedule Jordan's repayment of debts to Moscow for the years 1989 and 1990.

Jarrah briefed the visiting delegation on Jordan's financial difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis and Jordan's commitment to apply sanctions against Iraq in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The implementation of the sanctions, he said, has adversely affected Jordan's income of foreign currency. Jarrah said that the United Nations had the responsibility to compensate Jordan for economic losses incurred from implementing the Security Council's resolutions.

The Soviet delegation, which forms the Soviet side to the joint Jordanian Soviet Economic Committee, met with Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz to review trade and economic cooperation. Mordinov expressed hope that the current talks would promote bilateral ties now that the Soviet Union has adopted the market economy system.

Earlier Wednesday the Soviet and the Jordanian sides to the joint committee opened a meeting to discuss trade and economic matters. Mordinov reviewed with Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ibrahim Badran, scopes of bilateral cooperation in energy, irrigation, agriculture and trade.

The two sides also explored the prospect of cooperation in training personnel for tourism and the exchange of expertise in other fields.

The joint committee formed a number of sub-committees to deal with separate topics over the coming few days before a general meeting of all the sub-committees is held on Saturday when a trade protocol is expected to be signed.

At its last meeting in Moscow last year, the joint committee discussed types of goods Jordan might sell to the Soviet Union to help adjust the balance of payments, which is in favour of the Soviet Union, and to increase Moscow's imports of Jordanian phosphate to up to 500,000 tonnes annually.

Later Wednesday the Soviet

delegation visited the Amman Chamber of Industry and discussed with its president, Khalid Abu Hassan, the prospect of signing a \$50 million trade protocol providing for the sale of Jordanian products to the Soviet markets in exchange for raw materials for the Jordanian industry.

Abu Hassan said that Jordan was late in delivering the manufactured products because of delays in receiving raw materials brought about by the crisis. He said that the difficulties in maritime transport were another element causing the delay.

Abu Hassan said that Jordan, in exchange, was willing to immediately sell vegetables, fruits and flowers to the Soviet Union. He discussed with the delegation about privileges investors and importers get from the free zones where Soviet goods can be stored for re-export.

The head of the Soviet team said that his country would be willing to offer facilities to increase and promote bilateral cooperation in a number of fields.

In 1985 the Soviet Union imported JD 6 million worth of Jordanian products. The amount declined to JD 4.5 million in 1989. But according to the Chamber of Industry officials, Jordan's exports to Moscow are expected to reach \$60 million during 1990.

Jordan imports iron, cars, pipes and paper from the Soviet Union and exports gas ranges, domestic appliances, cosmetics and ready made clothes in addition to phosphate to the Soviet Union.

Queen honours those who helped evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday received at Al-Nadwa Palace representatives from the various committees and organisations and individuals who offered relief services to the evacuees who crossed into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait, as a result of the current Gulf crisis.

During a reception held in recognition of their diligent efforts to alleviate the hardship of the evacuees, Queen Noor stressed the importance of the family spirit and sense of group working in coping with this crisis.

"The people of Jordan," the Queen said, "have opened their hearts for the evacuees and have sacrificed the country's meager resources in order to ensure them as a brief and comfortable transit as possible."

The Queen praised the dedication of all those who had spent endless hours offering relief services to the hundreds of thousands of evacuees who fled to Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

Queen Noor said that "even though it is clear that this problem might remain with us for a long time, so many have contributed so much over the last two and a half months that I felt, during this relative lull in the relief operation, that we should express our appreciation and pride to all, and our prayers that peace and stability will return to the region soon, and that human suffering will end."

The reception was attended by the minister of health, president and members of the Evacuee Welfare Committee, and representatives from United Nations organisations, the European Community, and other non-governmental organisations who worked with the evacuees.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday visits the United Nations Amman headquarters (Petra photo)

Crown Prince praises U.N. achievements, urges more equitable approach to world issues

UNO celebrates anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday paid tribute to the United Nations Organisation which, he said, was established to service mankind and to maintain world peace.

"But the U.N. achievements over the past 45 years are now being eroded and the organisation's credibility is coming under constant threat in view of its performance in the Middle East," the Prince said during a visit to the U.N. office in Amman, marking the founding anniversary of the United Nations Organisation.

The Prince expressed regret over the Security Council's failure, so far, to reach a resolution with regard to the U.N. Security Council's decision to send an enquiry commission to investigate the killing of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem on Oct. 8.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan was the country the most affected by the Gulf crisis as a result of the imposition of economic sanctions against Iraq by the Security Council's resolutions.

Prince Hassan urged the United Nations to pursue efforts to help Jordan overcome the present economic difficulties.

U.N. resident representative Ali Atiqah paid tribute to Jordan as the major contributor to alleviating the plight of the evacuees who had fled Iraq and Kuwait over the past two months.

"Celebrating the U.N. anniversary this year coincides with very serious developments which threaten world peace and security," Atiqah said. The celebration was attended by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and other officials.

Egyptian embassy to help Jordanian students

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least four students who had been barred entry into Egypt to sit for their examinations in Cairo and Alexandria have now approached the Egyptian embassy here and were promised assistance.

The cultural attaché at the Egyptian embassy said that the four students, referred to his office by the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, would have their cases processed by the concerned Egyptian authorities and he would personally follow up the matter with Cairo to speed up the process.

Earlier reports said that at least 35 students had been barred from entering Cairo and had been detained for a whole night at Cairo Airport; reports said some were

harassed by the Egyptian authorities which alleged that their passports were forged.

Following the detention the students were returned to Amman, according to some sources. The students had gone to Egypt to prepare themselves for the end-of-year examinations, organised by the Beirut Arab University whose headquarters is in Egypt, according to Fayez Udwan, president of the Beirut Arab University Alumni Club in Amman.

Udwan said that nearly 1,000 students are registered at the university and "all are anxiously waiting word from the Egyptian authorities to make the trip to Cairo on Nov. 3, at the latest, to be in time for the examinations."

The Ministry of Higher Education reportedly is still awaiting

an answer from the Egyptian authorities about the fate of Jordanian students who had been accepted by Egyptian universities. These students, officials said, are awaiting permit from the Cairo authorities to make the trip as soon as possible since university studies have already begun.

Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah, the ministry's secretary general, said that he was in contact with the Jordanian cultural attaché at the Egyptian embassy in Cairo to clear the matter with the Egyptian authorities and to stop any harassment the students might encounter upon arriving at Egyptian airports.

Egypt's Ambassador here Mahab Mubqel denied reports about harassment of Jordanian students as "harmful rumours designed to strain bilateral relations."

Fahd

(Continued from page 1)

consideration because they are utterly baseless."

Interpretations of a softened stand came Sunday when Prince Sultan, the defence minister who is the king's brother and third in line to the Saudi throne, said that rights whether valid or doubtful could always be negotiated.

Sultan, and Prince Bandar, his son and Saudi ambassador to Washington, issued statements denying that this was reference to a principle and not a suggestion that Kuwait make any concessions as part of a settlement to the 2½-month crisis.

Prince Bandar was even summoned to the State Department for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for clarification. The United States has deployed more than 200,000 forces in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf to confront Iraq after the Aug. 2 invasion and force it to pull out. Other countries have another 100,000 troops massed.

Fahd himself on Monday, while talking to reporters with visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said that Saddam Hussein did not have to fear loss of face if he withdrew as he would be rectifying a blunder and Arab response would be one of gratitude.

Fahd and Mubarak, according to diplomatic sources, did discuss the eventuality of negotiations following the Iraqi pullout from Kuwait.

Comments by Sultan which appeared to suggest Kuwait could make territorial concessions to Iraq brought an immediate reaction from

the White House.

President George Bush rejected any compromise solution to the Gulf crisis and said Iraq must pull its troops out.

Bandar met Baker in Washington to clarify his father's remark.

Bandar told reporters on his way to the meeting that "Saudi Arabia has not changed its position at all."

Keeping up support for his controversial Gulf policy was a major theme as Bush campaigned for New England Republicans in the election.

Bush, speaking with reporters during his political swing, said the Saudi prince "was not talking about any compromise, territory compromise at all."

Meanwhile, British Defence Secretary Tom King was quoted in an interview with the Saudi newspaper Al (Asharq Al) Awwat as stating that negotiations for a settlement to the Gulf crisis could only follow an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"Our concern is focused on implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions, including 660 which was issued the day of the invasion and which demands that Iraq leave Kuwait and the legitimate Kuwaiti government be reinstated," said King. "After that takes place, there is a chance for the two sides to meet and negotiate the conflicts existing between the two countries. That is when the chances for peaceful solutions come up, that is after ending the aggression."

Britain is one of the major Western contributors to the multinational force and King stressed "we did not send the forces to the Gulf to sit and watch the Iraqi occupation."

Iraq, France say no deal

(Continued from page 1)

no government minister would meet Iraq's request to travel to Baghdad and arrange the release.

There were unconfirmed reports that the head of the French Red Cross, Georges Dutoit, would go to Baghdad to oversee the repatriation.

Dumas said no negotiations had been held to arrange the release.

Le Pen, who has urged the withdrawal of French troops from the Gulf region, infuriated the political establishment by claiming credit Tuesday for Iraq's decision.

The cabinet spokesman, Louis Le Penec, described Le Pen's claim as "absurd," while conservative leader Alain Juppé called it "ridiculous."

Hashemi said Le Pen has not received a visa to enter Iraq and would not be going there.

Iraq first made an overture to France after President Francois Mitterrand's speech to the United Na-

tions last month. Mitterrand suggested that an international conference on the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, could be held if Iraq pulls out of Kuwait.

Mitterrand and other French officials have since taken pains to state that Baghdad must comply with U.N. resolutions demanding Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and release all foreigners before any conference can be held.

But Iraq has seized on the proposal to split France from its Western allies in the Gulf.

"The United States and Great Britain are still beating war drums while the French position is completely different," Hashemi said Wednesday.

The French have said they're favourable to negotiation and a peaceful settlement.

France, with 13,000 troops in the Gulf region, has the second largest Western military force there after the United States.

Primakov launches new shuttle

(Continued from page 1)

Primakov will begin talks in Cairo Wednesday with Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's special adviser on Middle East affairs.

Diplomats said he was likely to wait for the return of Mubarak from a Gulf tour before finalising details of his tour.

Baz shuns publicity but wields considerable influence in formulating policy of the Arab World's most populous state on the Palestinian issue and the Gulf crisis.

Diplomats said Primakov was unlikely to find any change in Egypt's demands for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the toppled Kuwaiti government.

The Soviet Union has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and has joined a U.N. economic embargo against Iraq, for many years its closest Middle East ally.

Primakov said later a military showdown in the Gulf would be disastrous and a peaceful solution must be sought.

"We have to be optimistic," Primakov told reporters after two hours of talks with Osama Al Baz.

"We have to seek a peaceful settlement. A military solution would be a disaster."

Primakov said he would visit Damascus Thursday and return on Friday for talks with Mubarak. He would also visit Baghdad.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said last month Moscow would be willing to join a Gulf peacekeeping force under a U.N. flag.

One senior Soviet military official and several conservative newspapers have expressed fears about the stationing of Western forces around Iraq.

Conservative communist parliamentary deputies have also warned against sending any Soviet troops to the area, recalling Moscow's costly involvement in a nine-year war in Afghanistan.

Shevardnadze has said no troops would be sent without the approval of parliament.

The Gulf crisis has cost Moscow millions of dollars in oil deliveries owed by Iraq. At the same time, the Kremlin has been unable to step up its own production to take advantage of booming world oil prices.

Prince

(Continued from page 1)

start of the Great Arab Revolt," the Prince said.

The Prince also referred to the presence of mass destruction weapons in the region and said these weapons "are available to other states other than Iraq," especially Israel, "whose possession of such weapons is ignored by the world."

The Crown Prince conveyed to citizens of Salt the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and emphasised that the Hashemite family had been and would remain the real revolutionaries in the march of the Arab Nation and would always work for its freedom and dignity.

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

the problems of the region must be treated on an equal footing and in the same spirit. This is possible. We cannot believe the world is impotent to solve problems globally," he said.

Saddam has repeatedly said a Gulf solution depended on solutions of the Palestinian, Lebanese and other Middle East conflicts.

But the United States, which has rushed more than 200,000 troops to the Gulf, has rejected linking the Gulf crisis with the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Those who desire peace must know that the Arab Nation strongly wants this peace," Saddam said. "But they must know they must not address the Arab Nation from on high or with scorn. We can only accept to be treated with equality."

French President Francois Mitterrand has gone further than Washington to link Middle East conflicts, saying they could all be addressed if Iraq pulled out of Kuwait. The Iraqi parliament Tuesday voted to free all 330 French nationals held in Iraq.

1991 education budget to build 65 schools, create 1,000 jobs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 1991 budget for the Ministry of Education will create 1,000 jobs and entails the construction of 65 school buildings, said Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan.

The first phase of the educational project in Jordan entails the construction of 200 school buildings at an estimated cost of \$24 million, of which \$73 million will be drawn from a Japanese loan at an interest rate of 2.7 per cent, the minister said in a lecture delivered at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

In drawing up its educational policies and plans for new schools, the minister said, the Ministry of Education takes into account the four per cent population growth in Jordan and the fact that half of the population is under 15 years of age.

He said that according to the constitution, the state should make available basic education for all citizens free of charge. For this reason 9.6 per cent of the national budget was last year allocated for education and teachers training programme in the country, and for implementing the resolutions of the First National Educational Conference held in 1987, the minister pointed out.

Hamdan said that apart from programmes for school buildings there are ministry teams involved in preparing new textbooks and there are plans to raise the standards of the school teachers at all stages through on-the-job training programmes.

At present, 33 per cent of the population in Jordan are students at different levels, a rate which is expected to rise from now and until the end of the century.

"At present these students are being taught by 42,000 teachers, but the numbers expected to increase to 67,559 by the year 2000," the minister pointed out.

Hamdan revealed that literacy rate in Jordan now stands at 19.5 per cent but this will drop to 10 per cent by the year 2000 as a result of intensified programme at the adult and literacy centres.

The ministry is currently studying the prospect of setting up a national data bank, in cooperation with the Harvard University in the United States, to be able to provide accurate information about the state of education in Jordan and the one million students here.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zura displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 2:30-6:30).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology Parks" at the British Council.

FILM

- ★ Italian film entitled "Il baby paffo" at the Hays Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973

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Gesture well deserved

IRAQ'S decision Tuesday to allow all French nationals to leave is not a gimmick or a reward but rather a natural reaction to promising French peace initiatives and a token of appreciation for the independent French views on the Gulf crisis. For much too long both Washington and London tyrannically controlled the pace of events in the Gulf region and set the tone of Western reaction to it. Finally, Paris could no longer tolerate the U.S.-British monopoly which could lead the entire world, including Western civilisation, to abyss and stood up to rebuff this tyranny and put an effective end to it. This would explain more than anything else the Iraqi reasoning for freeing the French nationals at once.

Meanwhile Riyadh came under intense pressure from Washington for insinuating that a territorial compromise between Iraq and Kuwait could be entertained within the framework of a peaceful settlement of the Gulf conflict. President George Bush was so quick on the draw upon hearing the mere mention of a possible compromise in the Gulf situation that he released an immediate disclaimer of the report in the name of Saudi Arabia suggesting thereby that neither King Fahd nor his brother Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz have the final say about the outcome of the Gulf crisis. Immediately after Washington's decision to pour cold water on the welcome news from Riyadh, London typically followed suit and declared, through none less than Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher herself, that there was no change in Saudi Arabia's stand and that Riyadh still insisted on an unconditional total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. What audacity to speak on behalf of another sovereign state! If this is not an American-British imperialist attitude par excellence one does not know what is! All this reinforces the knowledge that American troops were on their way for deployment in Saudi Arabia before King Fahd had a chance to invite them in.

Obviously neither President Bush nor Prime Minister Thatcher can stomach the fact that Riyadh had offered the best example of border adjustment between Arab states and had been more than generous in accommodating the needs of its sister Arab countries on the basis that as long as Arab lands stay in Arab hands it is of little consequence which Arab state controls Arab land.

Jordan is the first Arab country to acknowledge with profound appreciation the voluntary Saudi acquiescence to extend its coastline on to the Agaba Gulf at the expense of Saudi territory. Amman, therefore, was the least surprised when Saudi Defence Minister Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz declared Monday that Arab states were ready to grant Iraq "all its rights" and that his country "sees no harm in any Arab country giving its Arab sister a site or a position on the sea and that Riyadh 'gave part of its territorial land and waters out of its free will' when it fixed its borders. What Bush and Thatcher obviously do not understand or do not want to understand is that within the context of Arab nationalism and the framework of one Arab homeland, territorial concessions between Arab states is the rule rather than the exception.

No wonder then that Iraq and the rest of the Arab World have only full appreciation for the French and Soviet understanding of the Arab situation. The least that Baghdad can do in response to this independent French thinking is to reciprocate it with deeds beginning with allowing all the French nationals to leave Iraq and Kuwait as it did with Soviet citizens not long ago.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

London and Washington which had been encouraging Israel not to accept Security Council resolution 672 are now delaying council action on sending an enquiry commission to the occupied Arab lands and preventing the council from adopting a new resolution forcing Israel to succumb to the international will, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Thus, the United States and Britain continue to manifest further contempt to the world organisation and the international legitimacy which they both have been bragging about and its respect, said the paper. Both nations acted differently in the Gulf crisis and were prompt in forcing the council to impose sanctions on Iraq, and they took the unilateral step of massing troops and naval forces to threaten Iraq, the paper continued. It seems that the Security Council and its members are requested by London and Washington to remain responsive only to orders by both capitals to impose humiliation on the Arabs and to refuse any action that is required to end Israel's atrocities and the killing of Palestinians, the paper added. The Security Council's double standards in its dealings with the two problems, the Gulf crisis and the Palestine issue is threatening world peace and security; but, said the paper, no matter how hard the British and the Americans work to protect the Israeli crimes, nothing can prevent the Palestinian people from pursuing their just struggle for freedom. The non-aligned nations, said the paper, are requested to pursue efforts needed to put an end to Israel's atrocities, and the major powers at the Security Council ought to listen to reason and to see it that all U.N. resolutions are implemented.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily calls on King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and president Mubarak of Egypt to stop echoing slogans and statements originating in London and Washington and designed to intimidate Iraq and its people. It is better for the two regimes in Riyadh and Cairo to refrain from such behaviour because both of them realise that they do not have a free will and do not hold the power to take a free decision, unlike Washington for instance which possesses the will and the means to decide on matters related to war or peace, says Tareq Masarweh. In France, former Prime Minister Jacques Shirac has warned the French government that it does not have the power to take a decision concerning war or peace in the Gulf, as this matter is left for Washington.

Why should we?

By Sama Adiyeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE bumper sticker on an old Mercedes car perfectly described the mood in Jordan over applying the U.N. imposed economic sanctions against Iraq. It said "Damned if I do, damned if I don't. So damn it, I will."

Simply put, the country seems to feel that it is damned if it abides by the sanctions and damned if it does not. The public, however, given the pressures the Kingdom is subjected to, is in effect saying: Jordan should not comply with the sanctions.

If we are suffering as a result of the trade embargo against our main trading partner, Iraq — which we as people are supporting in its position against the rest of the world — and we have received only a trickle of the needed aid to continue living, then we should not abide by the sanctions. What good has complying with the embargo brought us except bringing us to the verge of an economic collapse?

The Jordanian public has been explicitly supportive of Iraq and very critical of the U.S. and its allies in this crisis, without the government trying to interfere or ban this freedom of expression. This is all fine. But why in the world should the government actually be taking the other side when the issue boils down to choking Iraq and preventing food, milk and medicine from reaching its children and people? Whose side is the official position really on?

Last week, the prime minister personally ordered the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to stop a convoy of basic food, medicine

and milk for the children of Iraq, only two hours before the trucks were scheduled to leave Amman. This shipment, the fourth of its kind since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq was donated from generous individuals and institutions who care for the well-being of innocent children who literally have nothing to do with decisions taken by world leaders, this time by a supposedly peace-loving international body, the United Nations.

If Jordan is a true sister of Iraq, and if practically the entire population of this country is supporting the Iraqis, then why is the government stopping purely humanitarian goods from reaching Arab children? Are our officials willing to take responsibility for starving a brotherly nation?

It is obvious that Jordan has come under a lot of pressure for not siding with the U.S. and its allies, which is an honourable position; and it is also understandable that the government of such a small financially-troubled state had to do what it did.

But were we not promised compensation for abiding by the sanctions and have we received hardly anything that would cover even a small portion of our loss? What is the government trying to prove here? It has repeatedly stated that it is abiding with the sanctions and the West has taken this with scepticism and continues to threaten not to give aid if Jordan was busting the embargo. How long are we going to beg for money? If we don't receive it, fine. We should bust the sanctions with Iraq — a country that has returned our Arab dignity and made us proud of having this Arab identity.

It is difficult to understand why our own government, which is supposed to be leading a democratic experiment, is stopping basic supplies to Iraq. If the government wants to prove to the American policeman in the region, which includes foreign journalists who continue to fish for any clues that Jordan may be busting sanctions, or that we are a "civilised" nation that believes in international law, then the government should not abide by this "international law," i.e. Resolution 661, until and unless the rest of the world abides by other international laws in the region and respects the clauses of SCR 661 which calls for compensation to countries like Jordan.

What interest does the Jordanian government have in stopping medicine from going to Iraq — be it for commercial or humanitarian reasons? Even the British interpreted Resolution 661 as excluding food and medicine, and so should we.

I doubt that on this one, the government is representing the will of the Jordanian people, because the people do not want to be held responsible for starving a sister country which needs us more than ever. It is time the government stopped stooping to the U.S. and its allies. We are not getting anything from any of them, including and especially the U.S. Arab allies. We are already under siege along with Iraq. It is time we face it and look for our own national interests.

That's why we are damned if we do and damned if we don't abide by the sanctions. So why the hell should we, if it means starving not only the Iraqis, but also ourselves?

Jordan should do more for returning expatriates

By Mohammad Ayash Milhem

THE FIRST waves of Jordanian-Palestinian expatriates converged on Kuwait immediately after the 1948 war in Palestine and the end of World War II, but their numbers increased considerably in the 1950s and 1960s to reach some 500,000, accounting for one quarter of the total population. Most of those going to Kuwait came from villages and towns located along the border with Israel in the north and western areas of the occupied West Bank like Jenin and Tulkarm and their surrounding villages as well as other large numbers from the Gaza Strip.

But the number of Jordanians and Palestinians began to decrease in Kuwait following the collapse of the Al Manakh Stock Exchange in 1982 and decreased even more during the Iran-Iraq war in the past decade to stand at around 350,000. In spite of the drop in the number of Palestinians and Jordanians, their community remained the largest group in Kuwait at a time when they formed nearly half of the total number of non-Gulf citizens in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf countries.

The Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates shouldered the responsibility of building our new society in Jordan and in Palestine, and they have contributed financially and socially to the development of all aspects of life as they were transferring remittances home to support their own families here and in the Gulf.

Thus far, following the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, at least 100,000 Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates have returned to Jordan, and their return this

time is different from any other previous returns for a visit or a brief stay. This time the expatriates had only their own cars to transport them together with their families and some of their belongings to Jordan. But their savings, their end-of-employment rewards and other rights are left behind, and no one can predict their fate. Once a financial resource for themselves, their countrymen and their countries, these expatriates are now in abject poverty and in need of assistance.

Other Arab countries to which the expatriates have returned after the outbreak of the Gulf crisis have already exempted the returnees from paying duty on their cars and their belongings as a matter of assistance. Some of these expatriates have already sold their cars for very cheap sums in order to survive. Those countries have also taken a number of other measures to help repatriate their nationals in the easiest possible way. This is something we hope the Jordanian authorities will follow and will also take appropriate measures to deal with the question of national service or the payment of \$7000 by the expatriates as ruled by the government recently.

So far, the Jordanian government has taken steps to help the expatriates by allowing their children to enrol at local universities and schools and has arranged for the Ministry of Labour to register all the expatriates' grievances concerning the loss of their property and funds they left behind. The Egyptian government had approached the Kuwaiti gov-

ernment asking for compensation for the losses incurred by Egyptian expatriates following their flight from Kuwait. Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates have already approached the government and Parliament here for a similar step; and in support of their appeal, I submit the following proposals:

1.— Convening a general conference for the expatriates under the supervision of concerned government ministries so that all grievances and hardships can be discussed.
2.— Exempting the expatriates from paying any customs duty or at least putting off payment for at least one year especially duty on cars and payment in lieu of national service.
3.— Setting up a special emergency fund to offer assistance to needy families to help the expatriates especially in housing matters.
4.— Cooperating with expatriates committees to help recover their funds and rights and savings. Some studies have already been done concerning this issue and it should be emphasised that compensation in this regard is legitimate and in line with the U.N. Charter which entitles countries affected by the embargo to claim compensation.

We hope that the concerned authorities in Jordan will take these proposals into consideration and will act on them, so that the repatriation of our nationals can be done without too much pain for themselves and the whole country.

The writer is a Jordanian lawyer who practised in Kuwait. His article first appeared in Al Ra'i newspaper last week.

Aquino squeezed into national crisis

By David Schlesinger
Reuters

MANILA — Philippine President Corason Aquino is being squeezed hard by both the right and left, and now the crucial centre that helped put her in power is disgruntled with her leadership, political analysts here say.

"This government is under attack from the extreme left and extreme right and is looking for ways for peace," Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said in a speech on Tuesday. "This transition of uncertainty and instability can be long."

But what worries many analysts is that the centre is no longer solidly behind Aquino, who came to power in a popular revolt four years ago.

"The centre is at odds with itself," Rex Lores, a former government official and current adviser to politicians, said in a telephone interview.

"The party of the president has been at odds with the cabinet, and a party which is at odds with the cabinet and its own president is a disaster for a country with our present difficulties," he added.

In a recent public opinion poll

in Manila, Aquino was rated as only the fifth most popular politician.

Aquino's critics from all political persuasions despair at what they see as an administration lacking firm leadership and looking set to simply drift until elections in 1992.

Since coming to power Aquino has faced a string of coup attempts, including a military rebellion in the country's south at the beginning of this month.

"The centre is preoccupied with trying to check forces attempting a non-constitutional change of leadership," said Bert

Gonzales, leader of the opposition Philippine Democratic Socialist Party.

"What the centre is trying to do is define an agenda for action and work it out with Mrs. Aquino," he added.

From the left, Aquino faces a general strike planned to support demands for higher wages, lower oil prices, subsidies for basic commodities and a moratorium on foreign debt payments.

Aquino has said the country cannot afford to give the workers all the raises they want. She has also emphasised that the Philippines must stay on good terms

with foreign creditors, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, both of which have urged Manila to reform the economy by cutting spending, raising oil prices and devaluing the peso.

External debt totals \$27 billion. The "sparrow" hit squads of the Communist New People's Army on Monday issued a statement condemning "the Aquino regime's total subservience to the IMF-World Bank economic policies and its inefficiency, mismanagement, and graft and corruption." From the right, Aquino faces a

continued threat from factions within the armed forces that nearly toppled her in the sixth and bloodiest coup attempt so far last December.

The army rebels in a joint interview at the weekend said they were girding for "one big bang" against Aquino before the 1992 presidential elections.

Along with the strident statements from both left and right has come violence.

Two oil company offices in Manila were bombed on Tuesday morning, causing no injuries but damaging both buildings.

LETTERS

Arabs are undivided by religion

To the Editor:

As a Christian Arab I would like to congratulate Mr. Ajlouni on his very nice article on the "Christian Arabs: a long history of heroism" which was published by your newspaper on Oct. 20, 1990.

I am pleased that at long last our Muslim brothers have become aware of the massive propaganda war that aims to mar the wonderful relationship we always had with our Muslim brothers. In fact, we truly never felt like a minority and never felt any different from the rest of our Muslim Arab countrymen.

When our lands are occupied, all pride and dignity are called into question. We are all Arabs, Christian and Muslim alike. In fact, any one who calls into question this relationship is but playing into the hands of our enemies who are only too eager to have us quarrel among ourselves, while they divide up the spoils of our beautiful countries and homes and our great history.

Sincerely,

Najwa Khuri-Dulos, MD
Professor
Dept. of Pediatrics
Jordan University Hospital
Amman, Jordan

A jay will betray

To the Editor:

In a story entitled "Baker's Bluejay Yarn," which Mark Twain wrote in 1880, he said: "A jay hasn't got any more principle than a congressman. A jay will lie, a jay will steal, a jay will deceive, a jay will betray and four times out of five a jay will go back on his solemnest promise."

Hasn't the lapse of more than a century made any change in the "specifications" of congressmen?

Yours Sincerely,
George Khoury

Walesa — a 'sparkling' candidate

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuters

WARSAW — Just days after launching his bid for the Polish presidency Lech Walesa looks like an early favourite with a sparkling campaign that is eclipsing his rivals.

The Walesa campaign has rapidly gathered pace and energy while his main challenger, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, struggles to get his under way. Backed by years of experience in addressing crowds, the Solidarity leader is storming across the country, winning acclaim from thousands at rallies in city after city.

His well-oiled road show, with big crowds, brass bands and speeding motorcycles, overshadows the hesitant appearances of rival candidates who are learning street politics from scratch.

Mazowiecki's first sortie on the campaign trail undermined the contrast. He got off to a shaky start in the southern city of Krakow despite the support of its intellectual elite who turned out in hundreds to hail him as a favourite son.

Mazowiecki flunked his chance to address supporters in Krakow's vast renaissance market square.

His organisers sent him out on a hurried Sunday morning walk-about that was applauded by a few hundred Krakovians. But they forgot to set up a podium or provide a microphone and the diffident Mazowiecki was shouted down by skinheads when he tried to speak.

Three days later Walesa roared into Krakow to upstage Mazowiecki and the Mandarins by drawing thousands of Krakovians to a festive rally in the square that ended with a forest of raised hands acclaiming him their candidate.

"I want to be president because I am unhappy, because it (political and economic reform) is going too slowly, because there are too

many obstacles and because I want to get all of you involved in order to smash everything that hinders us," Walesa declared.

He said Poland needed a president who would act like a trouble-shooting sheriff, ready to issue decrees to ensure that the pace of political and economic change does not falter.

"If something goes wrong, the president should go and take a look, and I will intervene immediately," Walesa said.

His campaign appeared to be on the right track when the first two public opinion polls made him front runner, six points and 13 points ahead of Mazowiecki.

The different styles of the two candidates in handling the Krakow audiences was striking.

Walesa bounced up and down on his toes, bursting with energy, punching the air and often joking as he rattled out speeches and shot back answers to questions.

Mazowiecki, for years a back-room adviser to Walesa, talked in a tired monotone, rolling his eyes heavenwards and sighing heavily into the microphone at questions, and then intoning solemn, measured replies that silenced his admirers.

But they applauded fervently when Mazowiecki painted Walesa as a demagogic populist whose dictatorial tendencies and pressure for speedier change would endanger Poland's stability.

"I took the decision (to run) to safeguard Poland's fragile democracy from unpredictable upheavals," Mazowiecki said.

The president should represent the majesty of the republic and ensure a feeling of peace and security of the state," he added.

But Walesa easily won the game of political one-upmanship in Krakow.

While the mandarins embraced Mazowiecki, the city council voted the Solidarity leader an honorary citizen. In a nice twist the mayor who had to present the diploma was the father of Mazowiecki's campaign chairman.

Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

Oct. 25, 1990 [A]

Torture victims find help in Danish treatment centre

By Clare Pedrick

COPENHAGEN — With sweat pouring off his brow, his face contorted with pain, his hands held up in a gesture of surrender, Botan is reliving his worst nightmare. He has been led blindfolded into the prison, full of water containing on courtyard for execution. A blood, urine and vomit and soldier points a pistol to his head under until the split temple. Click. The gun fails to second before she drowned. go off. Shouts of laughter. Ana was arrested after disfigurement from the guards. They only buting anti-government leaflets wanted to frighten him. The lets in Latin America. She scene changes. This time later learned that her boyfriend Botan is hanging from a rind, the father of her small wooden bar by his hands on son Federico, had also been feet, and police guards are arrested and had died under beating him with heavy clubs.

From the adjoining cell come screams and moans. The the worst reputation for using guards have told him that they have taken his sisters and are raping and beating them to punish him for refusing to cooperate.

For Botan the physical torture is over, but the months of suffering at the hands of his torturers continue to haunt him, night and day. Sleep is difficult, smiling forgotten. mentation unit. There are de-Only now, after weeks of finitely 60 countries in the therapy with psychiatrist Pe-world where torture is practised, is Botan beginning to feel that he can talk about the things that were done to him. In his home country it, he added. "And there is Botan was a schoolteacher, the case of Northern Ireland, He comes from "somewhere where the British were condemned in the Middle East." We are not allowed to know more. At Denmark's Torture Rehabilitation Centre (RCT) every-

thing is done to protect the identity of the patient and to help her or him learn to trust again in other human beings.

Founded eight years ago in a leafy suburb of Copenhagen, the centre has become world-renowned for its pioneering work in a field that had been previously neglected. "Of course, torture has been practised all over the world throughout history, but we've never talked about it very openly before," said medical director Dr. Inge Genefke, the 51-year-old neurologist who heads the centre. "That's partly because tortures have always been so skilled in producing shame and guilt in their victims."

After months of therapy Ana, a thin, tense woman in her late twenties, admits to suffering deep feelings of guilt. She gave names to her torturers. Her therapist tries to comfort her, telling her that they probably already knew the names. Ana tells how her

guards tried to shame and humiliate her by making her eat her own excrement and threatening her with rape. She was hooded and repeatedly beaten. She had all her fingers broken. She was dunked in a tub full of water containing on courtyard for execution. A blood, urine and vomit and soldier points a pistol to his head under until the split temple. Click. The gun fails to second before she drowned. go off. Shouts of laughter. Ana was arrested after disfigurement from the guards. They only buting anti-government leaflets wanted to frighten him. The lets in Latin America. She scene changes. This time later learned that her boyfriend Botan is hanging from a rind, the father of her small wooden bar by his hands on son Federico, had also been feet, and police guards are arrested and had died under beating him with heavy clubs.

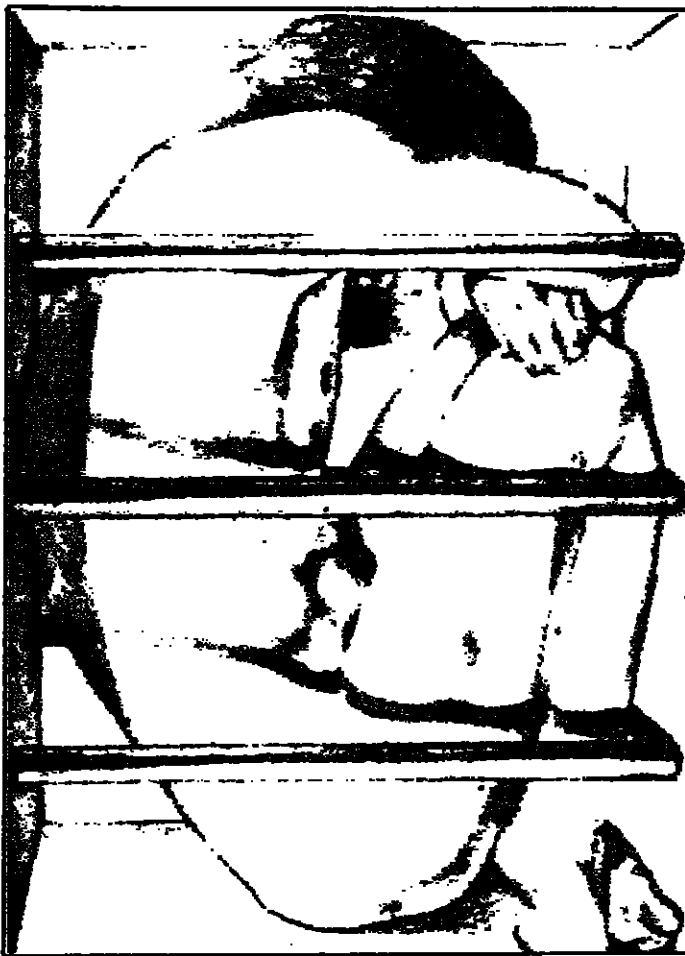
South America may have the worst reputation for using torture against its political opponents, but experts say that the practice is alarmingly widespread in other parts of the globe. "There is no evidence to suggest that people are becoming any less humane," said Svend Christensen, who heads the Copenhagen centre's documentation unit. There are de-

Only now, after weeks of finitely 60 countries in the therapy with psychiatrist Pe-world where torture is practised, is Botan beginning to feel that he can talk about the things that were done to him. In his home country it, he added. "And there is Botan was a schoolteacher, the case of Northern Ireland, He comes from "somewhere where the British were condemned in the Middle East." We are not allowed to know more. At Denmark's Torture Rehabilitation Centre (RCT) every-

thing is done to protect the identity of the patient and to help her or him learn to trust again in other human beings.

Founded eight years ago in a leafy suburb of Copenhagen, the centre has become world-renowned for its pioneering work in a field that had been previously neglected. "Of course, torture has been practised all over the world throughout history, but we've never talked about it very openly before," said medical director Dr. Inge Genefke, the 51-year-old neurologist who heads the centre. "That's partly because tortures have always been so skilled in producing shame and guilt in their victims."

After months of therapy Ana, a thin, tense woman in her late twenties, admits to suffering deep feelings of guilt. She gave names to her torturers. Her therapist tries to comfort her, telling her that they probably already knew the names. Ana tells how her



Torturers may not always kill their victims, but they kill souls, experts say.

torture exists." The sad, extent of their cruelty never ceases to shock me. I myself have nightmares after listening to the experiences of people who come here to the centre.

But however excruciating the physical suffering may be, about it by friends. Many of them have had similar experiences. Although different regimes have their specialties, torture techniques are international.

"A lot of tortures have nicknames, which makes their victims fear them even more," said Christensen. The "salted cheese" technique involves force-feeding victims with torture a child in front of his highly salted food and leaving parents, or a wife in front of them near running water that her husband, and there is no is, of course, inaccessible. "Falanga" is the name given to repeated beatings of the soles of the feet. In the later sent back into society to serve as a deterrent," added Vest.

"At the end you have a Tortures break their victims' spirits by depriving them of sleep, food and water, by exposing them to high-pitched sounds and permanent light or darkness. The goal is to make

them believe that they are losing their sanity. Sham executions are used to instill yet more fear. One victim was put into a coffin and lowered into a grave.

"What is so frightening is that they take normal, healthy people and turn them into vegetables," said Vest. "When they come to us, many torture survivors are incapable of work, of having sex with their husbands or wives, of conducting the most basic human relationships. The victims are facing a situation where all the normal rules have been broken."

Patients at the Copenhagen clinic often suffer from blinding headaches, acute depression and difficulty in concentrating or remembering. Many of them have no appetite and cannot sleep. The smallest incident can provoke memories of their suffering, such as the wail of a police siren or being left alone in the dark. Victims of water torture cannot be induced to go near a river or even take a shower.

The staff at the Copenhagen centre have to be extremely sensitive to the phobias of their patients. One man went into a catatonic state after a doctor asked him to remove his socks. He had had his toenails pulled out, and he thought that he was back in the torture chamber. An electrocardiograph can be a terrifying experience for a victim who has been tortured with electrodes. A blood test can bring back memories of being soaked in blood. A dental examination may become the most appalling of ordeals for someone who has had his teeth smashed in.

For precisely these reasons the medical staff never wear white and always keep their instruments out of sight of a patient. The therapy rooms have been decorated to look as unclinical as possible. Cheerful furnishing and flowers everywhere make the centre feel more like a home. While a team of doctors, physiotherapists and nurses set to work to try to repair the physical damage, psychiatrists do their best to get the patients to talk about their experiences. Catharsis is the only way that torture victims can put their suffering behind them. "There is a lot of screaming and crying, and they have a very hard time,

but it's essential for them to go through it," said Vest.

After years of research Vest said he is convinced there is a torturer in most of us. "The experience of Greece shows that the easiest method is to take young people who are not very educated and send them away to undergo very hard military training," he said. "But there is this potential in 90 to 95 per cent of people. If you want to find 100 torturers, you will find them, and if you want to find 1,000 you will find them, too."

One campaign being waged by RCT members is to expose the vast number of doctors who are involved in torture techniques. The practice is far more widespread than was thought, staff members said. 60 per cent of all patients admitted to the clinic claim that doctors took part in or were present during torture.

Research shows that a doctor's involvement can take many forms. He may examine a victim to see whether he or she is strong enough to survive torture, or to find the victim's weak spots. In more sophisticated operations it is often the doctor himself who administers the torture. When a victim passes out, a doctor may be on hand to bring him around for more. Afterwards, he may be called upon to repair the damage or, when things go wrong, to fill out a false death certificate.

In November 1989 a group of doctors from the European Community called upon the medical profession to set up an international blacklist. RCT medical director Genefke is in the forefront of the battle to prohibit doctor-torturers from practising medicine. "You cannot have torture without the complicity of the medical profession," she said. "The most vulnerable group are those who work for the military or the prisons, but there are plenty of others... These are people who should be taking care of human beings and are doing the opposite."

Genefke carries the indelible memory of one torture survivor's story. He told her: "The worst day in my life was when a doctor came in and I thought I was safe. But he said, 'you can carry on. This one can still take more' — World News Link.

Frameless heads, nameless walls

By E. Yaghi

ONE early morning on Oct. 8, 1990, black storm clouds gathered above the skies of Palestine. They seemed to bear a warning of an invisible presence that had somehow seemed to settle in this timeless land.

This land had been a place of peace, joy and love where noble farmers had once tilled their soil and tended their orchards and flocks with patient love and care much like the care of a mother for her infant child. The country was an ancient one where many prophets had once walked, minded their flocks and cast their nets upon the fertile sea. The landscape of this land varied, giving way to soft rolling hills, rocky mountains or fertile plains broken only by the frame of the great Mediterranean Sea.

The people of this land were kind, honest and simple folk. Their lives were pure and uncomplicated. Their days were long and filled with the sweat of honest labour and carefree laughter. They lived in an area comparable to the Garden of Eden. They were a good people, content with God's blessings and they bothered no one.

These people had been the protectors of all the holy shrines in Palestine. These shrines were loved and honoured by the three great religions in a country situated in the crossroads of the ancient world.

But one day, these gentle people were invaded by rich warlords who wanted to secure a foothold in the Middle East by establishing a Jewish state fed by the fires fuelled by Zionism.

A corrupt alliance between the U.S. and Israel was formed and early massacres of Palestinians occurred even before global recognition of the Jewish state.

Fanned by propaganda and backed by American financial, moral and occasionally military support, the Jewish state gained endorsement and sympathy by claiming that God had promised Palestine to them. Two thousand years after their original dispersal, Jews began to pour into the peaceful little nation only to murder, plunder and pillage an innocent people. While the world still cried for Hitler's crimes against European Jews, invading Jews were committing atrocities that would have put Hitler to shame. No one heard of these atrocities or cared. Everyone thought only of the poor Jews who were returning to their "promised land" and were turning a virtual "desert" into a green productive country.

At first, the Americans more or less controlled the strings of their Jewish puppets, but gradually, the cunning of Israelis and Zionists combined with the ignorance and sheer stupidity of the American people gave the Israelis the reins and they gained control of their American puppets. Palestinian refugees flooded into neighbouring countries to await their return. How many old people who lost all their land and possessions died yet waiting to return to their stolen land?

While all the world condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, these same countries were silent with the mass Jewish exodus in 1948 and with the current Soviet Jewish exodus. A whole people are without a country or any rights whatsoever while Western countries portray Saddam Hussein as a "tyrant" and a "butcher" when the real butchers foam at the mouth with insanity as they shoot and kill an entire population of those remaining Palestinians.

Hundreds of armed fleets crowd the Gulf. Thousands of bomber planes wait to strike. Hundreds of thousands of troops led by the U.S. anticipate war. These factors plus economic sanctions and an air and sea blockade try to strangle the Iraqi people. One single man dares to defy them in an arena where Americans and company have no right to be.

The authentic assassins are now doing their real work as butchers while the streets of Palestine are drenched in rivers of blood. The double standards of the Americans is like the forked tongue of a snake. While they speak about justice for an emir, who has billions of dollars, and screech about democracy, Palestinian children are being crippled and murdered every day. Americans are a mockery of justice and democracy. Their presence in the Gulf and their endorsement of Jewish atrocities should be a lesson for all Arabs.

It is time that every Arab learns that to the Western mind, especially the American mind, no Arab is better than any other. Treatment of Arabs depends only on what the Americans and their counterparts want for themselves. Most of the American people are isolated sheep who know nothing but lies about the Middle East. They won't care what happens here until their own sons, husbands and fathers are sent home in ticky tacky little wooden coffins.

Americans themselves are controlled by a government that is officially broke. No wonder when hundreds of millions of American tax dollars pour into Israel yearly and now added to that the current outrageous financial disaster in the Gulf.

When black clouds gathered on Oct. 8, foretelling disaster, a once peaceful Palestine turned into a nightmare. More than 35 died and hundreds of Palestinians were wounded defending their holy shrines in Jerusalem. Where is the world now? Where are the American fleets? Where are the multinational troops to defend an unarmed and helpless people who only have small stones and courage as high as mountains to back them up? Who is there to cry for the children, the youth and the old who died that day? Precious lives were suddenly blotted out without conscience. It must be demanded of President Bush, "Where is justice and just what is the meaning of equality, democracy and plain human decency?" Truly Americans lack the three "M's": morals, manners and mercy for other human beings.

Palestinian martyrs die a holy death of Jihad and their bodies emanate the smell of musk in their graves lined row after row where red poppies grow in Palestinian fields. Meanwhile, the starry, starry night shines on the silver thorn and bloody rose which lie crushed on the torn and plundered streets of Palestine.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Democracy reads well, but it doesn't act well
— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born playwright (1856-1950).

What we see depends mainly on what we look for
— John Lubbock, English astronomer (1803-1865)

Marriage is an adventure, like going to war
— G.K. Chesterton, English writer (1874-1936)

It is no use to blame the looking-glass if your face is awry
— Nikolai Gogol, Russian author (1809-1852).

SPOT 1-a strange photographer that works around the clock

By Claire Thierry

PARIS — A strange photographer is going around our planet. Nothing escapes his piercing sight and he works 24 hours a day. It is the French tele-detection satellite SPOT 1 which, from its orbit some 830 kilometres from us, has, since 1986, been continuously providing pictures of the Earth.

The pictures are of very good quality called "high resolution". Just choose a car-park, a tennis-court, a farm-house or the river in a Saharan oasis and SPOT will give you an aerial view as sharp as if it had been taken from twenty metres from the ground for a colour photo, or 10 metres from the ground for a black and white one.

How does it work? Every time it passes, the satellite's two high resolution cameras scan a strip of land 117 kilometres across. At the end of 26 days, SPOT's eye has photographed the whole planet from every angle and it

starts going over the same area again. Moreover, a clever play of mirrors extends its field of vision to several hundred kilometres. This makes it possible to take photos at an angle and thus to recreate pictures in relief.

SPOT owes the sharpness of its vision to the quality of its optical equipment. Six thousand photodiodes transform the light picked up into electrical signals which, in turn, are converted into computer data and transmitted to receiver stations in different countries. There, the information is stored on magnetic tape and finally transformed into pictures.

These photos are precious tools for cartographers, geologists, urbanists and agronomists. They are also useful for political leaders in areas such as civil security, national defence, town and country planning and agriculture. At any time, they can have a picture of the real state of the

surface of the Earth and its development: desertification, glacier drift, vegetation, the deformation of the ground in earthquake areas, etc., or see if a military site has been moved.

Here is an example. Since spring 1989, there has been drought in some regions of France. Some farmers, who are victims of the disaster, are to receive state aid. But which ones? SPOT plays the role of arbiter. Its pictures make it possible to accurately identify the areas affected and to share out the compensation fairly.

SPOT is though (it has lasted twice as long as predicted), discreet and effective. It has already transmitted more than 1.5 million photos of the globe. In this astonishing, computerised catalogue, idyllic scenes of the Caribbean Islands lie next to the terrible pictures of the destroyed nuclear power station of Chernobyl.

For "SPOT-Image", the

company which commercialises the products of the satellite, designed by the French Space Studies Centre (CNES), it is a success. Its turnover has considerably increased, rising from 20 million francs in 1986 to 130 million in 1989. Its public and private customers are in Europe (39 per cent), North America (21 per cent) and in the Asia-Pacific region (24 per cent). Despite recent competition from Soviet satellites, the leaders of "SPOT-Image" are quite serene. Demand is on the increase and they can provide a personalised service on request, and that is a major commercial asset.

As SPOT is growing old, even if it is still alert, SPOT 2 was launched to join it last January by the Ariane rocket, in order to provide a relay. It will be followed by numbers 3 and 4 in 1995, and then by its military cousins, called "Helios".

— L'Actualité en France.



An aerial view of Gulf of Arcachon and its port

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 25

8:30 Harp of the South

This is the story of a typical poor Irish family and all that it aspires to. ...the father is an alcoholic, the mother is a hard worker and sick... and the two sisters dream of love and a brighter future.

9:30 Feature Film

Escape From Alcatraz

Clint Eastwood attempts to escape from America's most fortified prison, Alcatraz, some forty miles off the coast of California.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cont. of the Feature Film

Friday, Oct. 26

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 El Cid

Alfred Molina and John Bird star as Scotland Yard detectives Blake and Bromley in the new drama — comedy series *El Cid*, where they escape from the criminal activities of London for a brief jaunt to Spanish Costa Del Sol to discover another world of crime.

Saturday, Oct. 27

8:30 Good Morning Miss Bliss

Miss Bliss is carried away by a student's hoax

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Feature Film

Under Fire

Starring: Nick Nolte, Joanna Cassidy

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cont. of the Feature Film



John Bird (standing) as Bromley and Alfredo Molina as Blake in the drama series *El Cid*.

Sunday, Oct. 28

8:30 Home To Roost

9:10 Histoire Secrete du Petrole

In 1922, Abdul Aziz Al Saud, founded a kingdom in the Arabian Peninsula, with Riyadh as its capital, and offered Britain to have oil concessions in his country. The British turned his offer down, and the United States and Britain shared the oil of Kuwait between them. During World War II, the United States of America continued to supply Nazi Germany with oil while German troops were occupying the European states one after the other. These are some of the shocking facts in this week's episode of this programme.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Paper Man

Every Post A Winner
Philip Cromwell buys the

London based Evening Post and adopts a young journalist who proves a real professional in the business.

Monday, Oct. 29

8:30 The Golden Girls

9:10 Shannon's Deal

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy

Memories of Allison

Quincy's futile attempts to help a woman suffering from amnesia

Tuesday, Oct. 30

8:30 Documentary

Ivory Wars
From Africa to Asia to retail markets around the globe. Ivory Wars investigates the illegal trade of ivory which currently threatens the Afri-

can elephant with extinction. The film captures the unique behaviour and close family ties of the African elephant and reveals the catastrophic effect poaching has had on the social structure of these majestic animals.

9:30 French Film

La Vie En Miettes

10:00 News in English

10:20 Cont. of the Feature Film

Wednesday, Oct. 31

8:30 One Foot in the Grave

I Will Retire to Vedlam

Victor is subjected to very difficult times trying to adapt to the new life.

9:00 Documentary Perspective

10:00 News in English

10:20 Family of Spies

Parents against pets syndrome

By Maha Addasi

THE subject of getting a pet is very difficult to broach with parents, because parents do not want to be stuck with feeding the pets and cleaning up after them.

My mother, for example, made it very clear from the start, that it's either her or the pets in the house.

So now we have a tank full of goldfish and my mother is on an extended vacation somewhere!

No! really, all kidding aside, we worked out a deal with my mother. We can keep the fish, if we take full responsibility for feeding them and cleaning their tank. And my mother had to promise us that she wouldn't flush the fish down the toilet when we weren't looking.

Some deal. But so far it has worked well.

OK, so not all parents are like this. Let us look at this typical scenario and then try to find a remedy for the "parents-against-having-a-pet-syndrome."

It is Friday morning. A father is shaving, and a mother is drinking her first cup of coffee in the sitting. A little kid who has just woken up is rubbing his eyes and locating his father. When he finds his dad he overlooks the traditional greetings and goes straight to the subject.

"Dad, can we have a 'wittle' cat?" The kid asks innocently, meaning may be have a kitten.

So the father, trying to buy time goes right to the butt of the conversation and says, "don't you want to say 'Good Morning' first?"

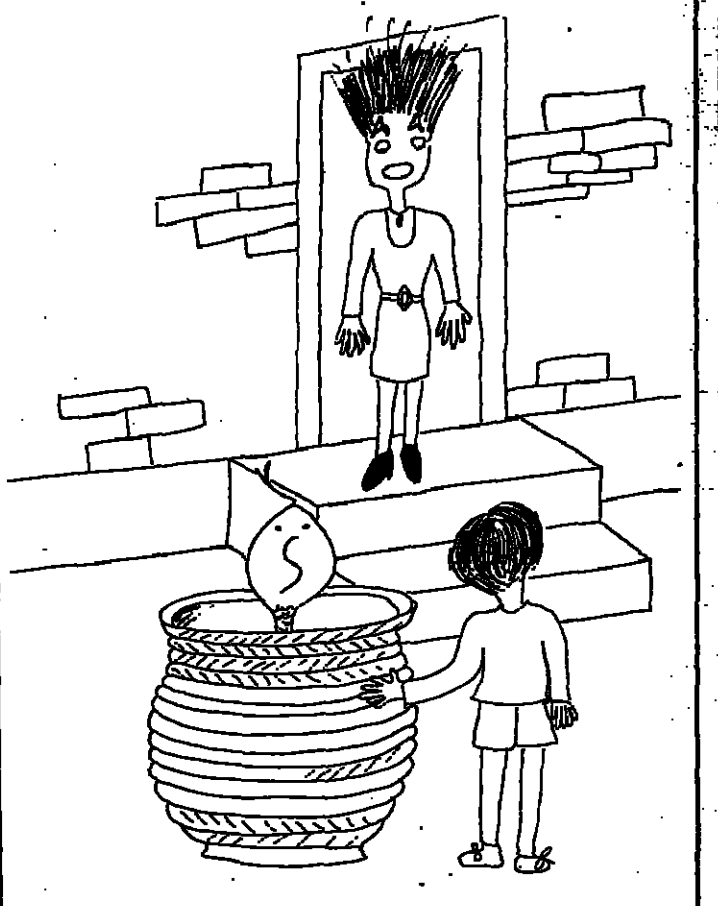
The kid then says, "O.K. good morning" Can we?" By this time the father has figured out one surefire solution. "Go ask your mother," he says.

The kid, like a fool, falls for this tactic. A few rounds later, after alternating between mum and dad a few times, the kid is distressed. He is way past the begging stage, and is fast approaching the toe-kissing stage. Until now the kid has gotten nowhere.

Through all these rounds, the kid has not yet heard the precious words "yes you may have a kitten." And, as a matter of fact, I do.

Do what my brother did. Go out, find any alley kitten, bring it home and tell your parents that you can't live without this very kitten.

MUMMY. PLEEEASE!?



There haven't been any complaints in our house so far. But my brother and I are wondering if our mother could handle having two different pets in the house. Remember, she never promised not to feed the goldfish to the cat!

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Oct. 25

1854 — Heroic charge of the British Light Brigade near Sevastopol, Russia, during Crimean War.

1874 — Britain annexes Fiji Islands.

1909 — Murder of Japan's Prince Ito by Korean fanatics leads to Japanese dictatorship in Korea.

1936 — Germany and Italy form Rome-Berlin axis.

1938 — Japanese troops take Hankow, and Chinese government establishes itself at Chungking; Libya is declared part of Italy.

1941 — Germany's first offensive against Moscow in World War II fails.

1956 — Egypt, Jordan and Syria form Unified Military Command.

1971 — United Nations seats China and expels Nationalist Chinese.

1974 — Foreign ministers of 19 Arab countries meet in Rabat, Morocco, and vote strong support for Palestine Liberation Organisation.

1988 — Israeli troops shoot and wound nine Palestinians in scattered clashes through-out occupied territories.

Friday, Oct. 26

1911 — Chinese Republic is proclaimed.

1917 — Brazil declares war against Germany in World War I.

1942 — U.S. aircraft carrier Hornet is sunk in Solomon

Islands battle in World War II.

1955 — Republic of South Vietnam is proclaimed under Ngo Dinh Diem.

1962 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev offers to withdraw missiles from Cuba if United States removes bases in Turkey, but is rebuffed.

1975 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat arrives in United States with bid for military and economic aid. He is first Egyptian head of state to visit United States.

1988 — Israeli warplanes attack guerrilla bases in southern and central Lebanon.

Saturday, Oct. 27

1870 — French troops surrender Metz, France, to Prussians.

1951 — Egyptians abrogate 1936 alliance treaty with Britain and 1899 agreement over Sudan.

1966 — U.N. General Assembly proclaims termination of South Africa's mandate over South-West Africa.

1973 — United Nations peacekeeping force arrives in Cairo to attempt to set up lasting ceasefire between Israeli and Arab forces.

1978 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin are awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

Sunday, Oct. 28

1492 — Christopher Columbus discovers Cuba on his first voyage to new world.

1886 — Statue of Liberty is dedicated in New York City harbour.

1922 — Benito Mussolini marches on Rome.

1962 — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announces he has ordered withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba.

1971 — House of Commons votes in favour of England's entry into European Common Market.

1974 — Arab heads of state issue declaration calling for creation of independent Palestinian state.

1975 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat meets with U.S. President Gerald Ford and urges him to end U.S. diplomatic boycott of Palestine Liberation Organisation.

1977 — U.N. General Assembly censures Israel for establishing settlements in occupied Arab territories, calling action illegal and damaging to peace efforts.

1987 — Indian troops push Tamil rebels out of strategic junction town near Jaffna in Sri Lanka.

1988 — Riot police in Prague disperse crowd of about 5,000 who defy ban on rally to mark anniversary of Czechoslovakia's independence in 1918.

1989 — More than 10,000 rally in protest of the government on the 71st anniversary

of Czechoslovakia's independence. Scores of protesters are beaten or detained.

Tuesday, Oct. 30

1817 — Simon Bolivar organises independent government in Venezuela.

1841 — Fire erupts at Tower of London.

1905 — Tsar capitulates to Russian Duma's demands for more legislative powers.

1918 — Czechoslovakia is proclaimed an independent republic.

1922 — Benito Mussolini forms fascist government, becomes premier of Italy.

1928 — Experimental transmission of still photographs by television begins in Britain.

1930 — Treaty of friendship between Greece and Turkey is signed in Ankara.

1955 — Sultan of Morocco abdicates.

1956 — Britain and France issue ultimatum to Egypt and Israel calling for ceasefire.

1963 — Algeria and Morocco sign peace agreement in border dispute.

1968 — Iraq releases 25 disabled Iranian prisoners of war who are flown home in plane chartered by International Committee of the Red Cross.

1989 — Riot police in Moscow repeatedly charge and club demonstrators, following a candlelight vigil outside KGB headquarters in memory of Stalin's victims.

By The Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

DISUNITY

By Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS
1 Hermitage
2 Included with
3 Atomic
4 Home of the
5 Swiss city
6 Silver State
7 Pub quaff
8 Shamir's people
9 Steel plate
10 Banjo leader
11 Mythical birds
12 Old Eng. letter
13 Flirt
14 "Thanks —"
15 Wander
16 Grail
17 Zodiac sign
18 Speech of

33 Overhead train
34 Mystery name
35 Feline
36 More of verse
37 Ignited
38 Crude metals
39 Unlocks
40 State with conviction
41 Rugs, river
42 Start of verse
43 Alas!
44 Long long times
45 Like laws
46 Diamond or
47 Sedate
48 Courage
49 Lulliputian
50 Getz or
51 Freiburg

62 Speed
63 Made amends
64 Fountainhead
65 Soul feature
66 Fictional nursemaid
67 Slightly open
68 Necktie
69 Hand-to-hand fighting
70 Eggs
71 Disk
72 Western resort
73 Dog's delight
74 Alamos
75 More of verse
76 Hesitation
77 Sounds
78 Comrades

89 Paris summer
90 At no time
91 In addition
92 Oriental
93 Slightly open
94 Necktie
95 Night noise
96 Food for animals
97 End of verse
98 Musical key
99 Kind of goose
100 Pseudonym
101 Misspell
102 William's look
103 Rocky crags
104 Short time ago
105 abbr.
106 Hit a fly

53 Winged
54 Fester
55 Put on a show
56 Composer of "Hail Britannia"
57 Enthusiasm
58 Dictator's aide
59 Legless
60 Mongol
61 Heads
62 Attitude: abbr
63 Hue
64 Lurane city
65 Naturalness
66 "The more ought — we'd it out
(Bacon)
67 Exclamations of surprise
68 Double agents
69 Theater
70 drapes

79 Incidentally
80 Greeting
81 Car race Ruck
82 Relishes
83 Long
84 Run off the track
85 Misspell
86 William's look
87 Rocky crags
88 Short time ago
89 abbr.
90 Hit a fly

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Top hamburger eaters were no match in contest with the cheeseburger eating champion.
2. An expert who doggedly trails why fox terriers may not necessarily be a dogmatist, but it can be helpful.
3. Huge cook took book along to nook, took look, then hung book back on book.
4. Mime imitating president made a "persona non grata."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. WY HUMOR WUPG: C NAYTPA NASTODAN WE
CIAYADW CMAITHA YTAIAIB NETDO WRATI
ELD WRTDGGT. —By Lois H. Jones

2. XWC AMCCTCHX OFXXOC QTVRXH GVZ
YSSCVT XI QVGOZ ROIVX FE XWC
AMCCEOZ HCY IR OFRC. —By Gordon Miller

3. MTA NTAAPZRX ILMSLM STU MAXXE RE
XLZA LE O JUSX UZ STAPPLAE LE
JOIOIOE. —By Barbara J. Rugg

4. YPZI P LAFXXRG EXPIRT FL SPXXRG
"LOPTA" FZ OFL XNSPX ENXTNXY. —By Ed Middleton

SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Diagramless

19 X 19, By Marka J. De Wit

ACROSS
1 Defeat
2 Octagonal traffic sign
3 Boat basins
4 Range
5 Occur
6 Richard or Harold
7 Malay skirt
8 Sicilian volcano
9 Villainous looks
10 Pang

21 Remainder
22 Paving material
23 Stranger
24 Make a mistake
25 Head man
26 Land of Seoul
27 Put away
28 Dem.'s opponent
29 Colorless
30 Gabor
31 Having a certain ood
41 Pitcher's stat.

42 Snake
43 Closest
44 New Guinea port
45 Soup dish
46 Auto
47 Use a dirk
48 Assist
49 High seaport
50 Office stamps
51 Whiter Clifford
52 Jungle queen
53 Lip
54 Nasty kid

62 Fish of the future
63 Hardy heroine
64 Objective
65 Improvised
66 Engine
67 Sphere of action
68 Designer
69 Artistic movement
70 No longer working: abbr.

14 Howard of films
15 Direction in movies
16 Reverent fear
17 Years on earth
18 Shell
19 Harder to find
20 Noah's landfall
21 Led the bidding
22 Initiation ceremony
23 Betel palms
24 Igneous rock

DOWN
1 Physicians: abbr.
2 Get together
3 Rural buildings
4 Crooks
5 Puts up with
6 Wines
7 Fend trough
8 Stock exchange membership
9 Seasoning
10 Gewgaw

B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART



Orwell's 1984 to be shown in Soviet Union

By Paul A. Driscoll
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Soviet Union soon will be watching big brother.

The movie version of George Orwell's bleak classic 1984, depicting the terrifying world of an omnipresent government, will have its Soviet premiere in the next few months, its executive producer said.

Marvin J. Rosenblum, a Chicago lawyer who owns the film rights, said the film will be shown in Moscow in conjunction with a conference sponsored by the cinema-centre on "art, politics and freedom of expression."

"It's like breaking down the Berlin Wall," Rosenblum said Thursday night.

Orwell wrote his fictional account of total conformity, thought control and constant surveillance in 1948, and it was published a year later. The Soviet government didn't even acknowledge its existence until 1984, when it published a review.

Excerpts from the novel, including the omnipresent warning of Orwell's imaginary regime that "big brother is watching you," first were published in Soviet newspapers in 1988 as tight restrictions on information eased under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

But Soviet people had read copies smuggled into the country, Rosenblum said. "I've talked to a lot of Russians, and there's always been a lot of interest in it. All the intellectuals are aware of it."

While a date for the showing has not been set, Rosenblum said he expects it will come in early December or

January. He is about to begin negotiations with Soviet distributors for nationwide showings of the film, made in 1984. It stars John Hurt, and Richard Burton in his last movie before his death that year.

No political problems exist in negotiating a distribution contract, Rosenblum said. Previously only one agency had permission to import films, but that has changed.

"Now just about anybody can do it," Rosenblum said.

"I'm willing to take payment in rubles," he said. "I'm just going to look for a reputable distributor who's going to do a good job getting it out to the Russian people."

The film has been shown in at least 20 countries, but not in most of the former Soviet bloc.

Rosenblum bought the rights to distribute the film in the Soviet Union for an undisclosed amount from the British company Virgin Vision, whose parent company had put up the \$8 million to film the story.

Orwell wrote 1984 in 1948 as the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union was turning into a deep freeze. Orwell said the novel was meant to depict any totalitarian government, left or right, and not the Soviet Union in particular.

But the book was often read as an indictment of the Soviet system and became required reading in many U.S. high schools. A generation of students learned of the world of doublethink where war means peace, the Ministry of Truth dispurses lies and the thought police can set straight anyone who doesn't love big brother.

Hollywood builds new Calcutta slum

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

CALCUTTA, India — As if Calcutta didn't have enough slums, Hollywood built another one. The collection of patchwork shacks is so authentic that filmmakers had to erect a fence to keep out people hoping to move in.

The 600-foot-long (180-metre-long) street of 52 houses is the location for the movie based on Dominique Lapierre's best-selling novel, City of Joy, a story about a rickshaw puller and a Polish priest in the slums of Calcutta.

But it is more than just a movie set. The dilapidated homes are careful replicas of slum shacks made of tin, mud, stone, wood and tiles.

They were based on dozens of photographs from slum quarters in Calcutta, Bombay and New Delhi, said Philip Kohler, the production manager.

And they are so authentic "we had to build a 10-foot (3-metre) fence around the lot to keep out people who wanted to move in," Kohler said.

The homes were built on a lot owned by the National Oil Company near Calcutta's docks in the heart of the industrial zone. They will be demolished when filming is completed.

The film for Warner Bros. is to be directed by Roland Joffe, of The Killing Fields and The Mission. The 12-week shooting schedule begins in February.

Calcutta has 300 slum neighbourhoods, known as bustees, housing an estimated 43 per cent of the city's 12 million residents. Some estimates say up to 300,000 people are homeless street-dwellers.

City of Joy is about one of them, Hasari Pal, an impoverished villager who brought his family to the city when he could no longer meet debts from his small landholding.

After working as a rickshaw puller — a human horse in the last major city of the world where men still pull rickshaws — Pal can afford to move into the slum of Ananda Nagar, which is Bengali for City of Joy.

From the beginning, the movie project ran into political problems. Last year the state government of West Bengal objected to putting Calcutta's poverty under the filmmakers' lights.

The film company argued that the movie would highlight the city's "indomitable spirit," according to news reports at the time.

"We feel there is no need to show only slum-dwellers to show the indomitable spirit of Calcutta," retorted Parvatheni Upendra, the information and broadcast minister of the federal government in New Delhi.

The information minister for the Communist-led government at the time, Budhadev Bhattacharya, also objected to the film. He complained that the book was written "from an imperialist point of view."

Details of the negotiations that cleared the way for the film have not been disclosed. The estimated \$5 million, the company is likely to spend in Calcutta may have helped persuade the authorities to reconsider.

Kohler also said there was a contribution to an undisclosed charity of an unknown amount.

The Polish priest has been written out of the preliminary script.

Gone With The Wind premieres in Moscow

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — With popping flashbulbs, glaring television lights, furs and limousines, Hollywood made one of its classic entrances last Friday night for the Soviet premiere of *Gone With the Wind*.

The 1939 epic began an indefinite engagement in Moscow courtesy of a British-Soviet joint venture and Ted Turner, the American media giant already known in the Soviet Union for his Cable News Network and Goodwill Games.

A Red Army band played outside the prestigious, 2,500-seat Otkryt Theatre for the opening, while the Soviet and foreign movie-goers were treated to a champagne-look-alike before the opening. VIPs got real champagne and caviar, behind a guarded door.

Earlier in the day, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met in the Kremlin with Turner and American actress Jane Fonda, who accompanied Turner to the premiere.

Hundreds of people jammed the sidewalk in front of the theatre on one of Moscow's main thoroughfares for a chance to watch what Turner

called the American equivalent of War And Peace, another tale of lives torn asunder by a great war.

Gone With the Wind is set in the era of the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865) and the emancipation of black slaves, the same years in which serfdom was abolished in Czarist Russia. The countries' histories took widely divergent paths after that, but Turner sees a modern day analogy.

"The spirit of Scarlett O'Hara is what the Russian people need right now," Turner said moments before introducing the film to his Soviet audience.

Five years into the jolting reforms launched by Gorbachev, store shelves are bare and many Soviets predict a hungry winter.

"Because they're going through a huge transition, they have to do like she did (and say) 'with God as my witness, I'll never be hungry again,' and go to work to rebuild their country with a new economic system. You can't sit around...moaning and groaning about the days that are gone."

Such a philosophy may not have been on the minds of the hundreds of Soviets waiting to buy tickets. After years of



Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable in *Gone With the Wind*

cultural isolation, Soviets craved anything foreign, particularly American. Similar lines are the norm at the McDonald's and Pizza Hut restaurants, which opened this year in Moscow.

The film retained the original sound-track, with Russian-language subtitles. Movie fans had to queue up

for at least two hours for the chance to pay 15 rubles for a ticket. That's \$25 at the official exchange rate, but even more costly compared to the average monthly paycheck of 250 rubles.

After the box office sold out its undisclosed number of tickets, a couple dozen Soviets began offering 25 rubles for a

seat. No takers were seen.

Other tickets had been given directly to various Soviet organisations for distribution. More than 200 tickets were given to Westerners in Moscow, including embassy cultural attaches, for \$15 each.

Officially, formal black-tie attire was optional for this premiere. The movie's orga-

nisers guessed most Soviets had never even seen a dinner jacket up close. But they also wanted to let people see what a Hollywood premiere could be like.

And many Soviets came close. In a country where a sale of tennis shoes can cause a near-riot, some Soviets appeared in Italian suits and formal gowns. Others were adorned in furs and silk unlike that even seen in ordinary Soviet stores.

Once inside, the Soviets could buy an English-language biography of Vivien Leigh, who played the inimitable Scarlett in the film or a small bottle of French perfume, specially packaged for the premiere and called Scarlett. It went for 60 rubles.

Proceeds from the premiere would go to an anti-AIDS benefit sponsored by the liberal weekly magazine Ogonyok. Soviet officials have been slow to recognise the spread of the incurable disease in their country, with only a handful of cases officially reported.

The Soviet-British Creative Association, the joint-venture that organised the showing, says the film will travel to other Soviet cities after Moscow.

Gibson swapping star roles for his cattle and children

By Michael Miller
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — "I'm not myself here," Mel Gibson said, sipping black coffee in a luxury hotel in Los Angeles' fashionable Westwood district. "You're not seeing the real me."

The real Gibson, star of the new movie *Hamlet* and a string of blockbusters which made him one of Hollywood's top box office draws, likes nothing more than romping on the floor with his six children or working cattle on his ranch.

He is going home to Australia "to lead my own life instead of someone else's."

The star of the *Lethal Weapon* and *Road Warrior* series says he is tired of years of non-stop filming and is incapable of making another

movie.

"I'm going to take off 10 months or a year, if for no other reason than people must be getting sick of the sight of me," he told Reuters in an interview.

He starred as an Australian soldier in *Gallipoli* in the early 1980s, co-starred with Goldie Hawn in *Bird On A Wire* and more recently played *Hamlet* in a still to be released film version.

"I think if I had to make one more film, I couldn't do it," he said. "But I'm sure after a year off I'll feel like it."

Home for much of this year has been Scotland, the setting for most of *Hamlet*, which Gibson called "the hardest damned thing I've ever done."

Last year, home was Thailand, where he spent several months shooting *Air Amer-*

ica, his current release about the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's secret air force and its operations in Laos during the Vietnam War.

Home in real life is a sprawling cattle ranch in the Australian state of Victoria, where Gibson said he intends to go and recuperate.

Hamlet was unlike any other role he has tackled. "It's the career gauntlet, if you like. It was practically offered to me on a silver plate. It demanded to be picked up."

Reducing Shakespeare's original four-and-a-half hour stage play to a two-hour screen version was in itself a challenge, he said.

"It's difficult to get it right because, for instance, you're doing the last part of the soliloquy first — in fact, two months before you do the first part — based on loca-

tions.

"It's hard to pin this character down, to even talk about him, because the only thing consistent about him is his inconsistency. He's a real puzzle, a real juggling act."

"And there's no real answer to the puzzle. There's no right way of doing it. There are lots of wrong ways," said the actor.

Nevertheless, he is pleased with the result. "I think it's a very good production, it's very beautiful, and it's a damned good story."

The film version aims to make *Hamlet* accessible to mass audiences by somewhat simplifying the complexity of the play but keeping the original verse. Scenes have been cut, but the words are unchanged, Gibson said.

He gave up smoking partly in order to play *Hamlet* —

"you need all your lung space for air, to get the words out the right way, with the right sort of power" — but also to stop his children worrying about him.

Gibson, named "sexiest man of the year" by *People* magazine, is above all a family man.

Married for 10 years and one of 11 brothers and sisters, Gibson has children aged from nine years to eight months.

They go almost everywhere with him, he said. He has tried to be present at all their births but was in Thailand when his youngest son, Milo, was born. So he did the next best thing and arranged a telephone link between his hotel and the delivery room in Australia.

Hamlet does not yet have a release date, but chances are



Mel Gibson

its star will watch it with his family at a cinema back home — after he has seen to his cattle.

'The lights out syndrome' still prevails in Ireland

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

DUBLIN — What do Marcel Proust, Ernest Hemingway, H.G. Wells and Dylan Thomas have in common?

They, along with the authors of *Hot Dames On Cold Slabs* and *She Died Without Nylons*, have been banned by the Irish censorship board.

Everything from the world's classics to lurid pornography has come under the censor's microscope.

Ironically, James Joyce's

masterpiece *Ulysses*, once banned in Britain and the United States on grounds of obscenity, was not banned in Ireland. Irish censors never explain their decisions.

Joyce and other Irish literary giants like George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett preferred self-imposed exile to writing in a homeland they felt was stifled, puritanical and isolationist.

A new book charting the history of censorship in Ireland contains interviews with seven Irish writers whose

books were banned. Their reactions in Ireland range from rage through sadness to great amusement.

They are no longer banned by the board, set up in 1929 as a guardian of the nascent nation's morals in a predominantly Catholic society.

The law was reformed in 1967 so that a book could be banned for only 12 years, after which it was automatically released. The world's classic literature was at last made freely available and the board is now confined mainly to

banning pornography and information literature on abortion, which is illegal in Ireland.

John McGahern, short-listed for this year's British Booker Prize, lost his teaching job and was forced to move to London after his novel *The Dark* was banned.

With more than a touch of bitterness, he recalls: "I didn't manage to write for three or four years after the business."

McGahern, who married a foreigner in a registry office, says he is still haunted by the

remark of a member of the Irish National Teachers Organisation when he appealed to get his job back.

"By the way, McGahern," he was asked, "What entered your head to go and marry a foreign woman when there's hundreds of thousands of Irish women going around with their tongues out for a husband?"

Edna O'Brien, whose books were called a smear on Irish womanhood, recalls: "If people tell you you've written

dirt, even if you know you haven't, some of it stays with you. I wanted to go very far away. Australia even."

Banned writer Lee Dunne concluded: "To openly admit that sex is wonderful and that it can be joyous and beautiful and affirming is really regarded with a great deal of suspicion, distaste and repugnance by a great deal of our society which is still locked into that idea of respectability. The lights-out syndrome."

EC debates difference between Picassos and paint

By Suzanne Perry
Reuters

BRUSSELS — What is the difference between a Picasso, a canvas and a pot of paint?

This is not a riddle, it is a serious issue that the European Community (EC) has to settle as it builds the single market due to come into effect at the end of 1992.

The 12 EC countries have committed themselves to promoting free trade of goods and producers can already freely sell paint and a host of other products across the Community.

But France is not about to apply that concept to the Mona Lisa, Spain to the Velazquez masterpieces in Madrid's Prado Museum or Ireland to the Book of Kells. Member countries are enti-

tled by the EC's founding treaty to restrict exports of "national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value."

The problem facing EC legislators is how to define national treasures and how to protect them once internal customs checks are abolished as part of the 1992 programme.

EC governments have already had two discussions in recent months trying to decide whether to impose Community-wide criteria. EC Culture Ministers were debating it again in Rome this week — but no decisions are expected before a full ministerial session in mid-November.

National legislation varies widely. The Netherlands, for example, restricts the sale of

property in state museums and has drawn up a list of about 300 other objects and collections that cannot leave the country without government permission.

Most are silver and sculptures owned by churches, but a Rembrandt and a Bruegel are also on the list.

"The criteria are mostly concerned with whether the item has a connection with Dutch history," said Charlotte van Rappard of the country's department of cultural heritage.

Spain takes a much broader approach, requiring export certificates for all antique cultural items.

"We have a lot of national treasures and a problem of illegal traffic," said Juan Fernandez Trigo, cultural affairs

counsellor at Spain's EC delegation. "Many people go to a little village and take things and sell them."

The Community's Executive Commission and some member countries fear that legitimate trade in art works will be hindered if protective measures are too strict.

"This has to be seen in an internal market context, not purely as a cultural issue," said a British diplomat.

Sixty per cent of Community art sales take place in London, and Britain wants a narrow interpretation of "national treasures."

A long list of items would merely invite black market operations, Junior Trade Minister John Redwood told reporters at a meeting of EC ministers recently.

But Spain, reflecting the worries of other Mediterranean nations that they will lose their cultural heritage to richer countries, says each country should decide for itself what its treasures are.

"Every country has a right to prevent its cultural roots from being destroyed by this free market, which is very good for economic goods but not for cultural goods," Fernandez said.

Spain maintains the Community's only role should be to find ways to prevent European treasures from being stolen once internal border controls are relaxed.

The country is still smarting from an incident a few years ago in which it had to buy back a stolen Velazquez, La Mar-

quesa de Santa Cruz, from Britain.

Spain proposes a uniform "certificate of free circulation" that would be granted by EC countries to non-protected cultural goods.

No one could claim they had unknowingly purchased a stolen item if a certification system were adopted across the EC, Fernandez said. Exporters would have to produce this document at the bloc's external frontiers, and customs officials would have to respect the legislation of other member countries.

Another possibility being examined is creation of an electronic data bank that would link the 12 national lists of cultural treasures to help customs officials spot illegal exports.

Steep increase in brain cancer among elderly — study

WASHINGTON — Brain cancer has increased by up to 500 per cent among elderly Americans, a trend that an expert at the National Cancer Institute calls alarming because the disease is almost always fatal.

"It once was considered that brain tumors reached a peak rate (among people in their 30s) and then would rapidly decline in the older population, but it now appears that the incidence continues to increase with age," said Nigel H. Greig, a National Institute on Aging Researcher. "I think it is alarming."

In a study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, Greig and three co-authors report that the rate of brain cancer appears to have increased by up to six-fold for the elderly in 1985 compared to the rates measured from 1973 to 1974.

For persons aged 75 to 79, the rate increased 187 per cent, the study finds. For those aged 80 to 84, the rate rose 394 per cent, and the rate of increase was 501 per cent for those aged 85 and older.

Primary brain cancer rates showed little change in 1985 among younger U.S. population groups, said Greig.

"In virtually all other age groups, the incidence rates were approximately the same as in 1974," he said. "But these groups (the elderly) had a dramatic increase. It is a large rise over a 10-to-15-year period."

Brain cancer is relatively rare in the population as a

whole, representing only about 1.5 per cent of all new cancers diagnosed annually. Each year, there are about 15,000 brain cancer patients in all age groups.

Incidence of all types of cancer among all U.S. population groups rose 10.7 per cent during the study period, Greig said.

The study measured only cancers that started in the brain and were not spread there from tumors elsewhere in the body.

Treatment for brain cancers is not good and half of all patients die of such tumors within 10 months, he said.

Improved diagnostic techniques — particularly using X-rays — may explain some of the increase in brain cancers found among the elderly, Greig said.

Stanley I. Rapoport, another co-author, said the increase may also come from a greater interest in the health of the elderly since the 1970s.

But Greig and Rapoport both said they believe at least part of the detected increase in brain cancer is not a result of sharper diagnostics.

"We feel that there is a true increase and we're trying to determine just what that is," said Greig.

As to the cause, Rapoport said "there is a possibility that it is environmental factors to which we are all exposed, but we don't know that yet."

Other co-authors were Lynn G. Ries, of the National Cancer Institute, and Rosemary Yancik, of the National Institutes of Health.

New technique can save patients who suffer cardiac arrest

By Tara Bradley-Steck
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A woman who collapsed when her heart went into spasms and stopped owes her life to a new device that pumped oxygenated blood through her body for 15 hours while doctors worked to stabilize her heart without surgery.

"Had they not gotten approval a year ago to use this machine, I can question whether I'd be alive," said 29-year-old Sharon Wilczynski, who was clinically dead several times. "What else could they have done?"

Miss Wilczynski became the first human test case in a study the University of Pittsburgh is conducting to see whether clinical death can be reversed in cardiac arrest patients who do not respond to advanced car-

diopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR.

The study centres around use of a closed-chest emergency cardiopulmonary bypass machine on patients who suffer cardiac arrest outside the hospital. University of Pittsburgh researchers had spent a decade experimenting with the procedure on dogs.

"If CPR doesn't work within a few minutes, we normally are dealing with a hopeless situation," said Dr. Peter Safar, who directs the university's International Resuscitation Research Centre.

This new emergency room technique may "help reverse increasingly prolonged periods of clinical death to complete recovery," he said.

Only about 10 per cent of patients suffering sudden cardiac arrest survive their attack, even with currently practised CPR. Dr. Samuel

Tisherman, the principal investigator of the study, estimates the new method could save an additional 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

"This is just the beginning in new vistas in resuscitation," he said. "If this is used along with other therapies, such as hypothermia and specific drugs, then we'll really make an impact. Then we might get an additional 20 to 30 per cent survival."

The equipment, assembled by university researchers, is a miniaturized version of heart-lung machines used to sustain patients undergoing open heart surgery, Safar said. The emergency room version consists of off-the-shelf devices that include an oxygenator, oxygen tank, pump, heat exchanger, battery pack and several feet of tubing.

Two plastic tubes are inserted into a patient's femoral

artery and vein at the groin. One tube carries blood out to an oxygenator, which removes carbon dioxide and adds oxygen. The blood is then sent through a heat exchanger, which adjusts the temperature, and is pumped back into the patient through the second tube.

The system maintains blood flow throughout the body so the brain and other vital organs are not damaged while attempts are made to restart and stabilize the heart. The method could also benefit patients who suffer sudden cardiac arrest due to problems such as kidney failure or drug overdoses.

"This will be in every emergency department in 10 years," predicted Dr. Paul Paris, director of emergency medicine at Presbyterian University Hospital, where Miss Wilczynski was treated.

Paris said the equipment could be made smaller for use in ambulances.

"The sooner they can do that, the better," said Dr. Robert White, professor of neurosurgery at Case Western Reserve University and chairman of neurosurgery at Metro Health Medical Centre.

"What Dr. Safar's group has done... is very exciting," he said.

Although medics reached Miss Wilczynski in five minutes and administered CPR, her heart was stopped from the time of her collapse until after she was in the ambulance. She was hooked to the new bypass machine within 50 minutes. Even after her heart was restarted it beat intermittently.

After two hours, her heart was beating but unstable, so doctors let her sleep, while

the machine maintained blood flow, and the next day her rested heart stabilized.

Miss Wilczynski said her memory is vague of the two- or three-week period following her fall.

"I think my brain pushed it all back and said, 'these are things you don't want to remember,'" she said from her home in Corapolis, Pennsylvania.

Dozens of tests since the July 26 mishap have revealed no sign of brain damage. Last month a device was implanted in Miss Wilczynski's chest to help prevent future episodes of mitral valve prolapse, which in rare cases causes the heart to go into spasms.

"We went to my sister's recently and passed a funeral procession," Miss Wilczynski said. "It was an odd feeling, like 'there but for the grace of God go I.'"

'Low-fat foods may cut fat intake but not calories'

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — People who eat low-fat foods find other ways to consume calories, but don't replace the fat, suggests a new study with implications for newly developed fat substitutes.

Study participants who unknowingly ate low-fat lunches made up the missing calories by the end of dinner, but not the missing fat, said researcher Barbara Rolls, director of the laboratory for the study of human ingestive behaviour at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

That's obviously good news

for people who want to reduce fat intake, and it may also pay off for weight-watchers, she said.

The federally financed study focused on six men who spent 13 days in a laboratory, where researchers could precisely measure what they ate.

The men did not know the purpose of the study, and they were kept busy with a variety of tasks.

Each man ate a high-fat, 344-calorie lunch during one three-day period, and a low-fat, 431-calorie lunch in another period. Both lunches consisted of large sandwiches and salad. The men could not distinguish between the two

versions.

Beginning one hour after lunch, the men could choose from a variety of foods to eat. Analysis showed that if they had eaten the low-calorie lunch, they later made up the difference in calories, mostly at dinnertime.

But no such compensation occurred for fat, Rolls said. That suggests fat substitutes "certainly are going to be an aid to help people to try to reduce fats in foods," she said.

Hopkins researcher Richard Foltin, lead author of the study, cautioned that the men were not free to eat whatever they wanted for

lunch. So the evidence is only suggestive that in everyday life, low-fat food would reduce total fat intake, he said.

Adam Drewnowski, director of the Human Nutrition Programme at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, called the study valuable.

He also said nobody knows what happens to overall fat intake when people know they are eating low-fat products.

Rolls said she doubts those people make up for missing fat. "I don't think people think in terms of 'I want to eat fat,'" she said.

Emergency room like 'war zone medicine'

By Robert Dvorchak
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dr. Robert Hessler surveys the gridlock of gurneys crisscrossing the emergency room hallways and makes a troubling diagnosis: Something is wrong beyond the chest pains, broken limbs and stomachaches confronting him.

The emergency room is an overstretched strand in the health care safety net.

His domain "is overwhelmed with patients who need to be administered to," says Hessler, assistant director of emergency services at New York City-owned Bellevue Hospital. "We do what we can minute to minute. We're using every little nook and cranny we can find to take care of these people."

Five of the patients who have hurried here to wait are going to intensive care; four more to the heart attack unit. Twenty-one have been patched up and are awaiting admission to the hospital. Meanwhile, other patients continue to arrive. The worst get seen first.

Time passes with neither comfort nor silence in this makeshift ward. Patients on stretchers start at the ceiling without so much as a curtain for privacy.

"If you come to the emergency room, I can't give you peace and quiet and comfort," Hessler said. "And for people who aren't critically ill, I can guarantee you a very long wait."

Hessler, 38, patrols the area with a stethoscope dangling from his neck and the pocket of his unbuttoned lab coat bulging with notepads in which diagnoses have been written.

"It's not a pleasant way to be sick," Hessler said. "I'm always afraid that somebody who's seriously ill has to wait longer than they have to for a physician."

An average of 300 people a day pass through the emergency room at Bellevue. It is a respected hospital. Dignitaries would be rushed here if they were injured or fell ill while in New York City. Cops hurt in the line of duty prefer 264-year-old Bellevue, the nation's oldest continuously operating public hospital.

It also sees crack addicts, people shot in drug-related assaults, AIDS patients, the homeless, inmates from city prisons whose manacled ankles protrude from stretchers.

"We're kind of a field hospital. This is war zone medicine. We see all the casualties," Hessler said. "We see everything here. We are the window to the world. You will

never go anywhere else in the world and see something we haven't already seen at Bellevue."

Illegal drugs are found in two out of three patients who are shot, stabbed or hit by a car, doctors say. One-fourth of the trauma cases involve people who have mixed two or more intoxicants, usually alcohol and cocaine.

The homeless seek treatment for such ills as frostbite and feet rotted by prolonged exposure to wet and cold and inactivity.

"It's like a Third World situation," Hessler said.

In addition, to sewing up accident victims or treating kids who swallow rat poison, doctors care for societal ills. A camera is kept to document suspected child abuse. A standard evidence kit can store specimens from rape victims.

The clamor is a long way from Hessler's hometown of Billings, Montana. He spent seven years at the University of Miami medical school before doing his residency at New York University, one of the country's top medical schools.

Hessler specialized in internal medicine, but opted for emergency doctoring. It allows him to do a little bit of everything that interests him: Internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, and surgery.

"I like to work with critically ill patients. They make you think and work the hardest you possibly can. You're keeping people alive," Hessler said.

"We're not God. Not everybody can be saved," Hessler said. "But if you die in spite of everything I could possibly have done, at least I feel we delivered the best possible care and did everything we could have."

He stays, even though there are better-paying jobs with less heartache and without the ever-present possibility of burnout.

On call 24 hours a day, Hessler escapes the bedlam of Bellevue at his suburban home in River Vale, New Jersey.

"After a day of wild and chaotic work, I can go home," Hessler said. "I can trim the bushes, look at my lawn, water the plants, watch the birds flying around. I'm used to a more calm lifestyle."

But before he can retreat to New Jersey, Hessler makes a sweep through his emergency room — bandaging a smashed nose, taking vital signs on a heart patient, scalpel the bureaucratic red tape so a patient can get X-rays and trying to find out why another is waiting for attention.

AIDS epidemic triggers increase in tuberculosis — WHO

By Claude Regis
Reuters

GENEVA — The spread of AIDS has triggered a resurgence of tuberculosis, which kills three million people a year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a recent report.

It estimated that about three million people infected with HIV, the virus responsible for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), were also infected with tuberculosis.

It said one of the main reasons for the resurgence of tuberculosis was the spread of infection with HIV.

"When people infected with tuberculosis are also infected with HIV, tuberculosis is more likely to become active because of the weakened immune system," the report said.

"Countries with the highest rates of HIV infection and a high number of TB (tuberculosis) carriers are recording explosive rates of TB," Arata Kochi, head of WHO's tuber-

culosis unit, told a news conference last week.

He said 100,000 people in North America were infected with both HIV and AIDS.

"Worldwide about five per cent of HIV carriers are also TB sufferers but if AIDS continues to spread there will be a catastrophic increase in TB cases," he said.

The WHO report estimated that 2.4 million people in sub-Saharan Africa had both HIV and TB. In Latin America, the number with both diseases stood at 300,000, in Asia at

200,000 and in the industrialised world at 150,000.

WHO estimates that 15 to 20 million people will be infected with HIV by the end of the century.

Each year, the report said, there were eight million new cases of tuberculosis, a contagious disease of the lungs caused by bacteria transmitted through the air when infected people cough or sneeze.

It said 1.7 billion people, or one-third of the world's population, were or had been

infected with the tuberculosis bacillus.

"After decades of declining rates, progress against this killer has come to an abrupt halt in some developed countries," it added.

As an example, it cited the United States where the number of cases had declined for 32 years.

Kochi said the number of sufferers had increased from 22,000 to 26,000 between 1984 and 1990.

But most of the tuberculosis deaths occurred in the developing world, the report

said. The disease killed 1.8 million people annually in Asia, 656,000 in sub-Saharan Africa and 220,000 in Latin America.

Kochi said that if medical treatment and drug therapy were administered properly, 98 per cent of people infected with tuberculosis could be cured and the chain of transmission broken.

But because of lack of resources and proper medical infrastructure millions of people in developing countries did not receive adequate treatment, he added.

AIDS drug mired in corruption and controversy

By Didrikke Schanche
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — A low-cost drug Kenya trumpeted as a breakthrough AIDS treatment has become mired in licensing squabbles and charges of corruption.

The controversy is making the drug difficult to obtain and casting doubt on promising initial findings. But patients and doctors who have used the drug, known as Kemron, say it does seem to alleviate most symptoms associated with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). And people are coming from Europe, the United States and elsewhere to try the treatment.

Africa has been hard hit by AIDS, which kills by destroying the body's ability to fight off disease.

The Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that in sub-Saharan Africa, one of every 40 adult men and women is infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. In the United States, which has recorded about half

the world's known cases of AIDS, one of every 75 men and 700 women has HIV, WHO estimates.

Optimistic reports about Kemron, a form of Interferon, await confirmation in clinical trials under way in several countries. Meanwhile, doubtful claims of proprietorship by Kenyan researchers and suggestions they may have overstated their findings have cast a shadow over the drug.

Interferons, which long have been studied for antiviral properties, occur naturally in the body and help shield the immune system. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of Interferon in treating Kaposi's Sarcoma, a cancer that commonly occurs among people with AIDS.

Dr. Joseph Cummins, an American veterinarian, devised a patented method of administering low doses of interferon to fight AIDS in a tablet that is dissolved on the tongue. The drug generally has not been tested in pill

form because of the belief it would be destroyed by stomach acid.

Cummins supplied Interferon to Kenyan researchers, who announced in February that after two to four weeks of treatment, AIDS symptoms were alleviated in most of the 101 patients tested. They further claimed the virus that causes AIDS could no longer be detected in the blood of "about 10 per cent" of the patients. The researchers reported no negative side effects.

No other scientists have duplicated Kenya's findings, which resulted from uncontrolled trials — there was no group receiving placebos against whom those taking Kemron could be compared.

The Kenya Medical Research Institute, or Kemri, initially agreed to do controlled trials. But the institute's director later changed his mind, saying it would be grossly unethical to give a placebo to dying patients.

WHO, largely due to the Kenyan results, has recommended expanded worldwide

trials, but cautioned that patients sometimes respond well to new treatments simply because of the greater attention they receive.

Kemri's director, Dr. Davey Koech, has claimed to have been largely responsible for developing the treatment — a contention dismissed by Cummins.

As collaborators Koech cited Cummins, whose Amarillo Cell Culture Institute has four patents on a low-dose use of oral Interferon, and Hayashibara Biochemical Laboratories of Akayama, Japan. Hayashibara is one of a handful of companies in the world that manufactures Interferons and it produces the drug used in Kenya's programme under a licensing agreement with Cummins' company.

Soon after the February announcement, Cummins wrote Koech a letter in which he accused him of lies and misrepresentations and threatened to sue over Koech's attempts to patent the technique in Kenya.

In a telephone interview,

the veterinarian from Amarillo, Texas, said he developed the treatment after years of experimenting with Interferon on animal diseases, including cat leukemia. Cat leukemia, like AIDS, suppresses the immune system. Cummins described one early experiment in a 1987 article in the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Despite their disagreement, Cummins said Koech had made a major contribution by putting the treatment "into people we never could have tested" due to restrictive laws in the United States.

"They've seen a significant effect on a number of patients. We'd simply like to verify the findings," Cummins said.

Koech declined repeated requests for an interview.

Neither Cummins nor Koech claims Kemron is a cure for AIDS. However, Koech's claims that traces of the disease were erased from the blood of almost 10 per cent of those he tested. Kenya's announcement at a July ceremony that the drug would be widely available by

mid-August raised false hopes among many critics say.

Joe Muriuki, who has been an advisor at a clinic for sexually transmitted diseases since learning he had AIDS three years ago, said a flood of local publicity about Kemron led people to believe it would both prevent and cure AIDS. That has led to a relapse into unsafe sexual behavior, he said.

Muriuki, who has been on Kemron since participating in Kemri experiments in December, says it has helped him, but complained of continued difficulty in obtaining the drug.

Although 200,000 tablets were imported for a July ceremony, most of them remain with the local marketing agent. The government's chief pharmacist says the agent, a firm called Innovative Therapeutics Ltd., cannot sell the drug unless 51 per cent of the company is owned by a pharmacist. The company, whose director has been selling veterinarian medicine in Kenya for three years, says no such regulation exists.

Cuba rediscovers horsepower

By Pascal Fletcher
Reuter

HAVANA — In the cafes of Havana's working-class neighbourhood of Marianao, daily deliveries of fried chicken, hamburgers and soup are now arriving on four horses instead of four wheels.

Not exactly "fast food," but it doesn't cost a drop of petrol. And as fuel restrictions caused by declining Soviet oil deliveries begin to bite across Cuba, companies, farms and individuals are increasingly swapping four-wheeled transport for the four-legged variety.

Marianao's state-owned Empresa Municipal Gastronomica Mxta, which supplies fried snacks and drinks to more than 50 cafes and snack-bars in the neighbourhood every day,

is using its three Czechoslovak trucks only for long-distance journeys to fetch farm produce.

In their place, the company has recruited a skinny but docile trio of horses to make daily food deliveries by cart.

"I think the horses are more efficient than the trucks. They don't have punctures, they don't break down, you give them some grass and off they go," said Mario Quinones, the company's deputy director of services.

Like all state-owned companies, the Marianao food distributor had its petrol ration cut by 50 per cent at the end of August as part of tough government measures to offset what it said was a two-million-tonne shortfall in scheduled Soviet oil deliveries in 1990.

"We can handle it. We can cut

back our petrol consumption to zero if we have to," Quinones said.

He estimated that using horses instead of the trucks saved 60 litres (13 gallons) of petrol a day.

In another energy-saving measure, the company prepares its food once a week with wood fires instead of electric or gas cookers. Quinones said they could switch completely to cooking by wood if they had to.

The authorities are encouraging housewives to do the same.

The Marianao food company is one of the first in Havana to use animals, but in the provinces horses, mules and donkeys are increasingly re-appearing, even for public transport.

In the country town of Guines in Havana province for example, some taxis — often pre-1959 Fords, Oldsmobiles and Chevrolets — are being replaced by slower but no less elegant horse-drawn buggies.

On farms, draught animals are taking over from petrol-guzzling tractors.

President Fidel Castro said last month that up to 400,000 draught oxen were being trained to pull ploughs and carts.

"We're going to be in a position to plough and cultivate everything that we have to with oxen if there is no fuel," the Cuban leader said.

But Cuba's sugar harvest, an essential hard currency earner for the island, would still mostly be cut by mechanical harvesters, Castro said.

The bleak economy of Jordan turns bleaker

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Austerity measures unprecedented in Jordan's recent history came into effect earlier this month, driving home the extent to which Jordanians were hit by the Gulf crisis after already being squeezed when Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Almost three months into the crisis, Jordanians are beginning to live the economic impact of the Kingdom's compliance with the U.N. imposed embargo against Iraq and the deprivation of Saudi oil supplies in addition to a series of measures widely perceived as aimed at punishing Jordan for its refusal to join the American-led military buildup against Iraq.

The immediate effect of the squeeze is felt in everyday life. Commercial enterprises, with the exception of bakeries, pharmacies, clinics and gasoline stations, close by 7:00 p.m., restaurants and entertainment establishments call off their day's business at 11:00 p.m., neon signs are turned off overnight and street lights are put off at 5:00 a.m. More than anything else, the new measures, which ripple within day-to-day life, have added to the feelings of gloom and anxiety that usually prevail in war zones.

The austerity measures, which include a two-day weekend — Thursday and Friday — for the public sector but offset by the extension of government office hours by two hours daily, come amid a growing general dismay that foreign economic aid to help the Kingdom face the high cost of compliance with sanctions against Iraq failed to materialise to any degree of reassurance. Compensation for the high cost of compliance with sanctions against Iraq have failed to come through.

Some economists dismiss the austerity measures as too little too late, while others underline that it is important to impress

upon the public the seriousness of the country's economic predicament, a widespread grievance, voiced recently by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is more political than economic: that the country is being subjected to a de facto blockade because it does not support the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf and its choice to keep the channel of communications open with Iraq is interpreted as support for Baghdad.

Businessmen note that many foreign investors are shunning the country, and imports through Aqaba Port — formerly a major entry-point for Iraq-bound goods — are being delayed or even blocked despite Jordan's declared adherence to the U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Since such harassment translates into higher costs for the consumer, economists and parliamentarians wonder how long the government can avoid imposing price hikes in light of the circumstances.

A government official said last week that the full economic impact of the Gulf crisis — particularly the loss of some four-fifths of Jordan's export market — had yet to be felt.

"We have lost 80 per cent of our export outlets because of the U.N. ban on trade with Iraq and the recent political differences between Jordan and the Gulf states over foreign intervention," said Under Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Ibrahim Badran. "Our natural and traditional markets in the Gulf are shrinking fast," he said.

Several Gulf states have restricted or barred imports from Jordan, including agricultural produce. Badran said it was premature to quantify the losses, but Jordanian exporters needed "quick solutions."

He said the loss of export markets meant government estimates of the cost of sanctions may prove considerably lower than the actual losses.

A largely invisible fallout

from the Gulf crisis is the return of expatriates, contributing to the already high unemployment rate. So far an estimated 120,000 Jordanian nationals have returned from Kuwait and other Gulf states, threatening to increase the unemployment rate to a staggering 50 per cent compared to a pre-crisis figure of 20 per cent, according to economic commentator Fahed Fanek. This does not include the 11,000 Jordanian truck drivers, who found themselves out of a job when transport between the port of Aqaba and Iraq came to a standstill. The picture became more bleak with reports that Saudi Arabia, which has barred Jordanian goods from its markets, is putting up hurdles in transshipment of Jordan-bound goods from its ports.

United Nations envoy Jean Ripert, who spent four days in Jordan assessing the impact of the crisis and sanctions on the Kingdom's economy, said: "While the Kingdom would lose as much as 50 per cent of its Gross National Product (GNP) during 1990 and about 50 per cent in 1991 in the form of exports, higher oil prices, expatriate remittances, transit charges etc., other countries stood to lose between 1.5 per cent of their GNP as a result of the Gulf crisis."

At a mini-cabinet session Sunday, the government decided to take further measures to ban all Jordanian exports to Iraq, including food and medicines. The government wants to impose a "total blockade" in order to convince potential donors to fulfill their pledges. Medicine was, however, excluded under a special order issued Tuesday, sources said.

"Some countries contend that Jordan is not fully complying with sanctions," a senior official said. "We have taken steps to stop all exports to Iraq to show our total compliance so no more excuses are given for extending assistance in accordance with Article 50 of

the U.N. Charter," he added.

The official said Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations was seeking exemptions from the sanctions committee for food and medicine exports. "We are waiting for a green light from the committee to resume the food and medicine exports to Iraq," the official said.

A legal expert close to the deliberations of the U.N. sanctions committee said some Security Council members have deliberately avoided adopting a mandatory resolution to assist Jordan.

The committee only issued "recommendations" for aid, thus leaving it to individual states to extend assistance on a bilateral basis.

The expert explained that because the recommendations are not binding on the member states, the aid remains on a "voluntary country-to-country basis with inevitable political strings attached."

The expert pointed out that Jordan did not only need financial aid but exemptions from the trade embargo for certain vital sectors of the economy which otherwise would "collapse."

"What good is it if the treasury receives a few hundred million dollars while entire sectors of the economy remain paralysed?" he asked. "How can we compensate the man on the street who lost his job as a result of the embargo. Do we give him cash handouts and encourage the destruction of the economy?"

Many analysts agree that the delay by Japan, the United States and the European Community to extend aid is designed to put pressure on the Kingdom and extract political concessions.

But a senior official said: "So far, with the exception of West Germany, we have been disappointed with the international aid effort." European and American diplomats reject this assertion and blame bureaucratic delays.

Tapline insists on payment

(Continued from page 1)

resume oil supplies," added the official.

Another senior official said Jordan was trying to find alternate sources to make up for the shortfall created by the Saudi cutoff but "no final decision has been reached yet."

Earlier, the government had said that it had no intention to increase its intake of oil from Iraq, which is repaying about \$310 million owed to the Kingdom in oil.

Over 82 per cent of Jordan's import of oil came from Iraq during 1989. With the alternate arrangement with Saudi Arabia

warranted by the international sanctions against Iraq, this figure had dropped to around 40 per cent, according to officials.

Reports have said that Jordan was in contact with Algeria and Iran as possible alternative sources of oil, but there has been no official confirmation of the reports.

No details were available on the state of Jordan's oil reserves. Prime Minister Mader Badran has said that the country was drawing on its reserves as an interim measure to make up for the shortfall. But it is not known how long the country's reserves will last.

No nuclear revival despite high oil prices

By Catherine Armit
Reuter

LONDON — Despite higher oil prices and growing public concern about the effects of global warming, a decade-long decline of nuclear power looks unstoppable.

"There's been a lot of media hoopla in recent months about the revival of nuclear energy, but I'm very doubtful that there is anything behind this," said Christopher Flavin, an energy expert with Worldwatch Institute, a Washington-based environmental research group.

"There has been a very strong move worldwide away from nuclear for over 10 years, with some powerful forces attached to it that are not about to go away. The public just does not believe nuclear is safe," he added.

Only Japan and France have shown any interest in expanding or maintaining their nuclear programme since oil prices soared following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Industry officials are still hopeful that high oil prices, which exceeded \$40 a barrel in early October, and the environmental dangers of oil, gas and coal-burning plants would outweigh concern about the safety of nuclear power, one of the least popular forms of generating electricity.

Hans Blix, head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said that if 50 plants of 1,000 megawatts were built using nuclear fuel rather than coal, carbon dioxide emissions contributing to global warming would be reduced by 20 per cent.

Jean Van Dievoet, head of the European Nuclear Society, told a recent conference that he is hoping for "the first tangible signs of a nuclear revival" as a result of the Gulf crisis.

But since he made his remarks, Switzerland decided not to construct any nuclear power plants for the rest of this century, Brazil effectively halted its nuclear programme because of lack of cash, and billionaire entrepreneur Sir James Goldsmith said he would fund a campaign against nuclear power in Britain.

The German government has decided to shut down five Soviet-built nuclear reactors on former East German territory due to safety and prohibitive costs in adapting them. Energy experts said the move will increase pres-

sure to close down 26 similar reactors in Eastern Europe.

But Soviet authorities are considering re-opening a nuclear power station in Armenia which was closed at the beginning of the year because of fears of earthquakes in the region.

Nuclear power has been declining since 1979 when a partial meltdown in one of the reactors at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania leaked radioactive gas into the atmosphere. The accident put a virtual end to the U.S. nuclear industry — no new reactors have been ordered there since 1978.

But it was the disastrous 1986 explosion at the Soviet Union's Chernobyl plant in Kiev, which contaminated 1,000 square kilometres of land, that sounded the final death knell for the growth of nuclear power.

Almost every nation has reassessed its nuclear programme since Chernobyl.

The Soviet Union stopped all nuclear plant construction and cut its dependence on nuclear electricity from up to 500 to 100 megawatts a year.

Sweden, West Germany and the Netherlands placed moratoriums on nuclear plant construction and Italy shut down its reactors.

Britain also cancelled three planned nuclear plants and last year withdrew the rest from its electricity utility privatisation programme, for fear investors would refuse to buy shares in the industry if they had to subsidise nuclear.

Only France and Japan have expanded their nuclear programmes. Japan's ministry of trade and industry even concluded recently that it should increase its nuclear plants from 38 to 78 over the next 20 years to meet energy needs.

But worldwide, only 96 plants are under construction, about one-third of the total a decade ago. According to worldwatch's Flavin, in four to five years less than 40 plants will be under construction.

Nuclear power did increase steadily as a component of the world's electricity supply throughout the 1980s. The 426 nuclear reactors worldwide accounted for 16 per cent of total electricity generation last year.

But the IAEA predicts that nuclear growth will be slower than the overall growth

Bush in last-ditch effort

(Continued from page 1)

A senior State Department official who briefed Israeli journalists Tuesday said the Bush administration was worried by its inability to communicate with the Shamir government.

"We do now question very closely every shrum, every hint, every motion, every word on the part of each other," he said.

The official said it was vital that the two countries return to a system of confidentiality in their contacts because recent leaks of private communications had damaged trust.

U.N. diplomats said the United States did not want to exercise its veto because that could undermine the anti-Iraq coalition.

They said the U.S. government probably would abstain.

U.S. diplomats had no comment on the resolution, which deplores Israel's refusal to accept a

U.N. mission, demands it to cooperate and says all member states are bound by the U.N. Charter to obey council resolutions.

But diplomats in the 15-member council said the United States objected to the reference in the proposed resolution to Article 25 of the charter, which says all U.N. members agree to accept and carry out Security Council decisions.

Israeli diplomats said that the current resolution, if allowed to pass, would open the way to further council meetings and resolutions against Israel, including the possible calls to send U.N. observers and peacekeepers to the area.

The proposed resolution, "deplores" the refusal of the Israeli government to receive the secretary-general's mission, urges it to reconsider and demands Israel receive the team.

Hrawi

(Continued from page 1)

wife, Ingrid, and the couple's two sons, Tarek, 7, and Julien, 5.

No group has claimed responsibility for killing the Chamoums. The deed was branded by Muslim and Christian leaders as an attempt to block a peace plan to end the 15-year-old civil war, which has killed more than 150,000.

Crowds lined east Beirut's streets, weeping and waving as a motorcade bearing the coffins moved from his house in the suburb of Baabda to Deir Al Kamar.

Women, dressed in black, showered the hearse with flowers.

Army and police jeeps preceded the convoy carrying a big

poster of Chamoun and wreaths. Black ribbons decorated the motorcade.

Lebanese army troops loyal to Hrawi saluted Chamoun's motorcade as it drove past west Beirut up to the PSP-held Shouf mountains for the burial.

Rizk, the information minister, said the government agreed to seize control of all militia-run ports and to stop all "illegal and illegitimate" taxes levied by private armed groups in Lebanon.

"The government decided to toughen the implementation of laws, ban any transportation of arms, close down all militia offices and positions and take the immediate measures against violators."

The government statement did not set a date for the implementation of the new security plan.

Columbus was no hero, not even a nice person, biographer says

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — Christopher Columbus didn't know where he was going or what he found and lied about it anyway, according to a new book out to deflate the 500th anniversary of his epic voyage.

Two years from now, the world is going to give Columbus a huge party, congratulating him on proving that the world wasn't flat even though no sailor in his day believed that anyway.

He will be hailed on the 500th anniversary of his discovery of America even though the "discovery" was greeted by lots of people waiting on the shore who wound up being murdered, tortured or enslaved by him.

Such is the view of the social historian Kirkpatrick Sale. He

has spent seven years investigating Columbus, pouring over the records of his voyages, analysing his journals, counting its contradictions and producing the first comprehensive biography of the explorer in almost 50 years.

With biographers like 47-year-old Sale you don't need enemies. His is the post-Watergate, post-Vietnam, post-Cold War, anti-progress, pro-environment view of the man.

Sale says Columbus was greedy, destructive, probably paranoid, possibly not Italian, and responsible not for finding a new world as much as for wrecking it by enslaving its people and plundering its resources.

That's why Sale calls his biography "The Conquest of Paradise."

He says the voyage the world is getting ready to celebrate was

"the journey that began the long process by which a single culture came to dominate as never before all the other cultures in the world, to impose its language in their mouths, its clothes on their backs, its values in their hearts and to accumulate to itself the power that now enables it to determine nothing less than the destiny of the world."

Strong stuff, but Columbus is not without his defenders. They have been busy bashing Sale for trying to topple their hero.

They accuse him of hating America and its European roots so much that he misses the point of what Columbus accomplished — the opening of a new world and a new era for mankind.

Sale himself admits he is a party pooper.

"The worst thing about writing about Columbus is fighting

against the jingoism. I come out of an era of deflating national myths. The last time a full-scale biography of Columbus was attempted was 1943, a time of patriotism.

"I came into this project with a point of view but I tried to be completely honest in presenting the facts. I came into this thinking there was a black legend involving Columbus, but I had no idea of the character of the man."

Among the things that anger Sale is Columbus' greedy behaviour as he established Spain's foothold on the new world, setting up Hispaniola as the new world's first colony.

On landing, he claimed the land for Spain, not bothering about who really owned it. In a year he set about enslaving the natives, whose goodness he first praised.

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Jordan Times

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

France, Italy, Netherlands and Bulgaria advance in volleyball

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — France defeated Canada and Bulgaria swept Sweden in sudden-death games to gain berths in the quarterfinals of the 12th World Men's Volleyball Championship.

The Netherlands and Italy captured the last two spots in the quarterfinals with victories that eliminated Japan and Czechoslovakia, respectively.

All four teams, which finished second and third in the opening round, will pair off against the four teams that finished first in their respective groups last week.

France, which won two of three first-round contests, posted a 15-3, 12-15, 17-15, 15-9 victory over Canada at Nilson Nelson Gymnasium in Brasilia, the capital.

France controlled the pace of the match with solid defense, strong service and quick-touch setting that had Canada off stride

and allowed the French players to set up power slams.

Bulgaria also kept its title hopes alive by blanking favored Sweden 15-7, 15-12, 15-10.

Bulgaria, which played competitively despite two of three first-round matches, dominated the Swedes with aggressive play at the net after service and tough blocking.

Heavy favorite Italy whipped Czechoslovakia in three sets, 15-6, 16-14, 15-5 to gain the third playoff berth.

Italy, with tough blocking off the serve and an aggressive, fast-moving attack, took advantage of the slower, disorganized Czech setters to win the match in 80 minutes.

The Netherlands took the final quarterfinal spot with a convincing 15-4, 15-12, 15-3 over Japan, by making use of its strong front line to block at the net and slam

over their smaller opponents at every opportunity.

The four division leaders in the first round also squared off in non-elimination games to determine their opponents in the first quarterfinal matches, set to begin Thursday.

Cuba pulled out its second comeback victory in the tournament by coming from two sets down to stun host team Brazil 13-15, 16-17, 15-8, 15-10 at Rio's Maracanazinho Stadium.

In an error-filled, sluggish match, Brazil took the opening sets with strong blocking and serves. But the Cubans roared back with quick setting and a series of well-timed power slams to ice the contest.

In an upset, Argentina over-turned six-time world champion Soviet Union with a 15-4, 7-15, 15-11, 13-15, 15-11 victory in the southern city of Curitiba.

The Soviet Union, which breezed to three victories in the first round, was caught off guard by Argentina's quick setting and fast serves. In the tie-breaker, Argentina capitalized on Soviet errors at the net with tough blocking to run off several points down the stretch.

In consolation games, the United States downed Venezuela for its first victory in the competition, 15-5, 15-7, 14-16, 15-3, and South Korea avoided finishing last in the tournament by winning its first match of the tournament against weak Cameroon 15-10, 15-2, 15-7.

The competition, which features 16 volleyball teams from five continents, decides a berth in the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. The only teams already qualified are Cuba, host country Spain and the United States, the defending Olympic champion.

Wilander wins in Stockholm Open to set up clash with Edberg

STOCKHOLM (R) — Former world number one Mats Wilander outlasted Australia's Todd Woodbridge in the Stockholm Open Tennis Tournament Tuesday to set up a clash with fellow Swede and current number one Stefan Edberg.

Wilander, who has fallen from first to 43rd place in the rankings since he won three Grand Slam titles in 1988, defeated the Australian qualifier 7-5, 6-7, (3-7), 6-0.

Wilander and Edberg, the Wimbledon champion and top seed who had a first round bye, will meet in a second round match.

"It will be fun to play against Stefan, but if he serves well I fear my returns will not be adequate. My self-confidence is not good enough right now," Wilander said.

The two last met in the Australian Open in January when Edberg beat Wilander in the semifinals, the best tournament for Wilander since 1988.

The 26-year-old Swede, who

received a wild card to the Stockholm Open, said he was encouraged by reaching the final two days ago in the ATP tournament in Lyon where he fell to Switzerland's Marc Rosset.

"I've improved my game a lot in the past few weeks. It was fun to play in Lyon. I don't play for fun," said Wilander, who has been suffering from shin splints.

Another Swede, Magnus Gustafsson, boosted his self-confidence after being out for three-months through injury when he eliminated 11th-seeded American Aaron Krickstein in the second round.

Gustafsson, losing finalist in Stockholm last year to then world number one Ivan Lendl, defeated the American baseline and 1989 U.S. Open semifinalist 6-2, 6-4.

Krickstein was the first seeded player to crash out of the \$1.1 million event which includes 14 of the 16 top-ranked players in the world.

The exceptions are world number three Lendl and seventh-ranked American Thomas Muster who is serving a three-week suspension as of Monday for leaving the court in the middle of a match in Prague last August.

In another second-round action Tuesday, seventh-seeded American Brad Gilbert defeated Switzerland's Jakob Hasek 6-3, 7-6, (7-5).

Wilander said Tuesday he would not play in the controversial new \$6-million Grand Slam Cup.

"My decision is definite. I will not play the Grand Slam Cup even if most of the other players take part," Wilander said after beating Woodbridge.

Wilander is among the 16 players with the best records in the four Grand Slam championships who have qualified for places in the cup to be staged in Munich, Germany, from Dec. 11 to 16.

Several top players, including Becker and McEnroe, are critical of the cup, the richest tennis event ever.

Jackson retains WBO title

LEICESTER, England (AP) — Left-handed American John David Jackson floored Britain's Chris Pyatt in the 11th round and won a unanimous decision Tuesday to keep his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) light-middleweight title.

As if to dispel doubts following his inconclusive previous defense in Paris, where the fight was declared a no-decision, Jackson jabbed his way to a convincing victory over the big-punching Briton.

There was a dispute over the count in Paris, when French challenger Martin Camara appeared to knock the American out in the 11th round. The fight at first was declared no contest but the WBO later declared Jackson as champion.

This time there was no mistake. The 27-year-old fighter peppered Pyatt's head with right-hand jabs and built up a points lead over a British fighter who tried to land big hooks and swung sometimes aimlessly.

Jackson always looked the better boxer and Pyatt was overwhelmed by the American's technical superiority.

Realising he was far behind on the judges' cards, the Briton went for a knockout finish and paid the price when he was floored by a short right in the 11th. He was given a standing eight count by Puerto Rican referee Ishmael Quinones.

The three officials, all from Puerto Rico, scored the contest 117 to 111, 118 to 109 and 116 to 112.

Counting the Camara fight, it was Jackson's third title defense and a record of 23 unbeaten contests.

China, UAE qualify for Asian under-16 semifinals

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — China and hosts United Arab Emirates qualified for the semi-finals of the fourth Asian under-16 soccer games after playing to a scoreless draw in their final group A fixture Tuesday.

Both countries finished with five points each after two victories and a draw in their 4-team group.

In Tuesday's other game, India scored its first win by beating Jordan 1-0. Chandan Day netted in the only goal of the match in the 39th minute for India who are however out of the competition along with Jordan.

From Group B, Qatar are in the semi-finals and play Indonesia in a match which will decide whether Indonesia or South Korea, who both have a point

each, will qualify for the last four. Meanwhile, Qatar's Maseur A. Santos was suspended by the disciplinary committee and not allowed to join his team until the end of the tournament because he assaulted a touch-line judge Monday.

Brazilian national Santos, who lost his cool during Qatar's 3-0 victory over South Korea, also faces more disciplinary action from the Asian Football Confederation.

Seven teams divided into two groups are taking part in this 10-day tournament which began Friday. Saudi Arabia have pulled out due to the current Gulf crisis.

The top three teams from this competition will qualify for the under-16 world championship in Ecuador next year.

Soccer favourites win European Cup matches

By the Associated Press

The European soccer favourites made no mistakes as Bayern Munich, Manchester United, Barcelona and Bordeaux all won their European Cup matches.

Bayern looked the best with a 4-0 victory at Munich in their Champions' Cup match against Svedes Sofia. The Bulgarians were not only outscored but failed to capitalise on defensive mistakes by the Germans.

The Bundesliga champions could have had more goals but Olaf Thon missed a penalty in the first half.

International defender Stefan Reuter got Bayern started after just three minutes and added his second with a 62nd minute penalty. Roland Wohlfahrt and Klaus Augenthaler made the other two goals.

Manchester United cruised to an easy 3-0 win over English fourth division side, Wrexham.

United took control with two goals in two minutes, with Gary Pallister striking a third after 59 minutes.

Brian McClair started United's run by heading one in three minutes before the half after Steve Bruce had headed back a Neil Webb corner.

Two minutes later Nigel Beament fouled Mark Hughes in front of the goal and Steve Bruce converted the penalty.

While Bayern and United both won at home, Barcelona and Bordeaux notched up away victories, with the Spaniards defeating Fram Reykjavik of Iceland 2-1, and the French beating former East Germans FC Magdeburg 1-0.

Barcelona which lost 1-0 away to Trabzonspor of Turkey in the first round, first leg, before winning 7-2 at home in the second, got a goal Tuesday from Hristo Stoichkov three minutes from time to beat the Icelanders.

FC Magdeburg's battle with Bordeaux in their UEFA Cup second round match saw four Germans booked and one of two Frenchmen given a yellow card, Stephane Plaque, was sent off.

After Magdeburg had a goal disallowed for offside the crowd hurled bottles on the field which made the referee to confer twice with UEFA officials.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 25, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: That deep seated hunch that has directed you toward new paths will help steer you in the right direction today and you will wind up with a much clearer understanding.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Today make sure that you do nothing that can raise some friction between you and any companions but tonight harmony obtains in all relationships.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) It is apt to be difficult to get along well with fellow associates during the daytime so be tactful whereas tonight a spirit of accord is in effect.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Having a pleasant time with usually congenial persons during daytime is under a bit strain so keep pleasant but tonight you all join in happy recreations.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Coast along at home without raising any contentious issues during the day while tonight is fine for enjoying your home comforts.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Look for ways to eliminate some mistakes at whatever you are doing for the daytime can be confusing but tonight brings chances of success where you wish.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your judgement is not as usual where any financial commitments

are concerned so put off till tonight when you are thinking clearly.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't go after that wish that means so much to you during daytime but wait till the sun goes down, then you should be able to obtain it easily.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put your attention on getting rid of unwanted things until the evening when you will be able to make a plan of action for much future success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A usually cooperative friend has other worries over you on his mind and you should wait until evening before seeking a happy association.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Act with caution and deliberation in making any moves in public during the daytime but then you can go after them full speed ahead tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Avoid committing yourself to a new plan of action since all facts will not be clear until evening when you see projects as they really are.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can't seem to get environmental conditions as you wish but if you put this off till evening you will find brilliant ideas will come to you.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Like my meat loaf? Instead of bell peppers I tried chocolate chips!"

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 26, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The yourself down to some course of action that you are certain can help you get ahead swiftly. Don't let today's triple moon square slow you down and be sure to stay alert.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get whatever associates you can to look with you into new avenues of expression even though it may mean going a distance to get the right results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) The most attractive and comfortable site for you to meet and confer with other persons now and some fine lasting results can engage in these.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find the most attractive and comfortable site for you to meet and confer with other persons now and let them know your ambitions for the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You would be wise to make this a day when you have a special meeting with any family members about and discuss joint desire for the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Any reports, writings, documents you want to put out can be very successful over a period of time so join with creative minds in getting them out.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is now possible for you to devise a long range schedule with a family member wherein you in-

crease your prosperity by gradual degrees.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your mind is sharp and astute in any communications or contact with other persons now and some fine lasting results can engage in these.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get in touch with tycoons who have been very prosperous and ask answers from them how they have been able to do so and follow their example.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A very cooperative friend or acquaintance has some excellent ideas for you to gain some cherished wish of yours but hold back until you have a plan.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some tremendous opportunity in the world now but to make it work you will need to get much advice from confidential experts.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) So many new ideas are connected with an undertaking that interests you that experienced friends should be called upon to explain vague points to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take a project you have in mind that has some continuous benefits for you to a prominent person and try to get approval so you can proceed with it.

Sampras struggles to win in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Pete Sampras, playing his first ATP Tour match since winning the U.S. Open, struggled to a three-set victory Tuesday over Swedish qualifier Rikard Bergh in the Stockholm Open.

The fourth-seeded American, who rested three weeks last month after a bout with shin splints, won the second-round match 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.

Bergh is ranked only 426th in the world after missing nine of the last 13 months because of a shoulder injury, but he played well early in the decisive third set after winning the second-set tiebreaker 7-3.

"I thought I would be a little bit rusty today and I was," Sam-

pras said. "I didn't play as well as I would have liked, but I'm still happy with the win."

Bergh, who used to practice with Sampras when he went to Long Beach State on a tennis scholarship four years ago, broke for a 2-0 lead in the third set.

But the 19-year-old Californian's feared serve-and-volley game got going, and he was never challenged after leaving to 2-2.

"It feels good starting playing again, and each match I think I'll get better and better," Sampras said.

Michael Chang, the no. 12 seed, had a much easier match, beating clay court specialist Guil-

lermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina 6-4, 6-3.

But another American, Jim Courier, blew five match points and fell 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 to no. 10 seed Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union in another second-round match.

Courier, who made the semifinals here in 1988 and the quarters last year, led 5-4 in the third set.

Chesnokov, down 15-40 with serve, got back to deuce and saved three more match points in game 10, the last one on a lucky net cord.

Courier lost the new two games at love. Frustrated, he even served underhand trailing 0-40 in game 11.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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PIN IN A HAYSTACK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 6
♥ K J 5 4
♦ 10 5
♣ 10 6 3

EAST
♠ 9 7 4 2
♥ A 10 8 6
♦ K 9 6
♣ A 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ 9 7
♦ A Q J 7 2
♣ K 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 1 NT Pass
3 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

We have often written about simple pin positions. Typically, dummy at your right will have 10 x x in a suit in which you hold A J x x and you lead the jack, hoping to find partner with the king and declarer with the queen, thus permitting you to pick up the whole suit. Not all pin situations are that simple, however. Consider this situation.

South was just a point short of a one-no-trump opening bid, so when North was able to make an

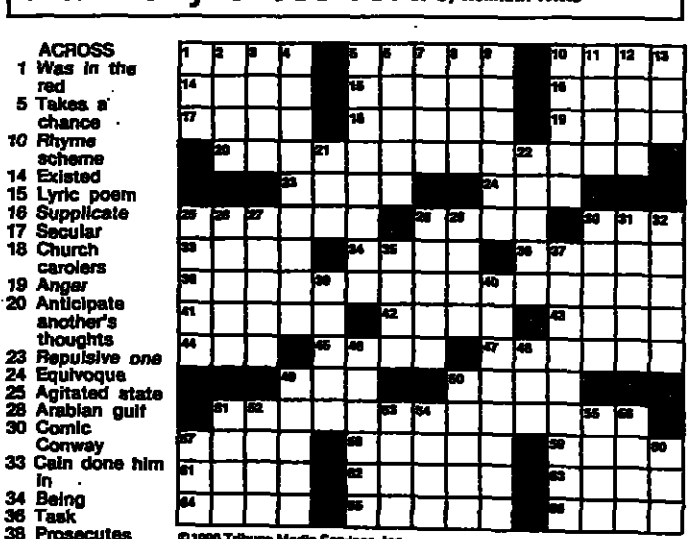
invitational raise to two no trump, South went on to game with alacrity. Against passive defense, declarer would have romped home.

West led the four of clubs, taken by East's ace. One look at dummy was enough to convince East that the club suit had little future, and that spades also offered little prospect of fast tricks. That left it as a choice between which of the red suits should be attacked.

Since South had shown no interest in a heart contract, but had accepted partner's game invitation, he had to have a reasonable diamond suit. So East decided to bank on finding his partner with the queen of hearts, and to attack that suit.

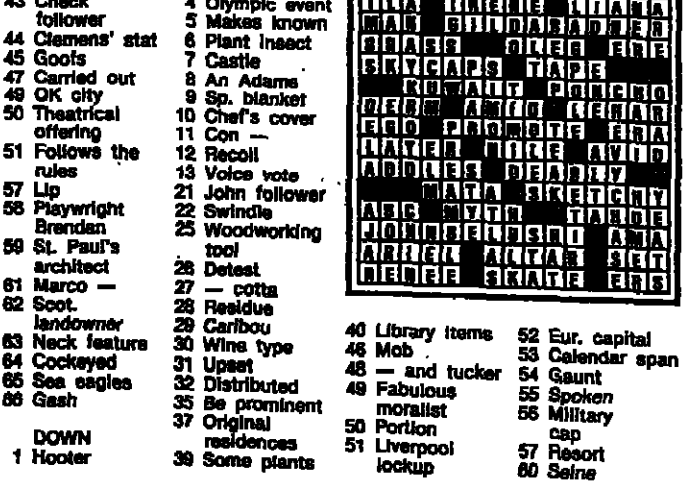
Had East routinely shifted to a low heart, declarer would have captured West's queen with dummy's king. When West gained the lead with the king of diamonds and reverted to hearts, the defenders would be able to take only two tricks in the suit. But East put the nail in the coffin by leading the ten of hearts, taken by the jack. Now, when West got in with the king of diamonds he could return the queen of hearts, and the defenders netted three tricks in the suit for a one-trick set.

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth White



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Serbia shakes national economy of Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The communist-ruled republic of Serbia has disrupted the shaky national economy by imposing duties on foreign imports and goods from its reform-minded neighbouring republics.

The measure approved by the Serbian parliament undermined the liberal economic reforms of federal Premier Ante Markovic and appeared to push the troubled Balkan nation one step closer to political disintegration.

The tariffs were part of an economic programme presented to the parliament by Serbian Premier Stanko Radmilovic and included the introduction of duties on goods imported to Serbia from abroad and from the Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

Radmilovic said the measures would protect the Serbian economy from "disloyal domestic and foreign competition" and Markovic's "destructive policies."

Parliament's juridical commission objected to the measures as "not legally based," but parliament spokesman Ivan Cunic said

Chinese premier makes strong reformist speech

BELING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng, known as a hardliner for his role in suppressing last year's pro-democracy protests, surprised foreign businessmen Wednesday with a strongly reformist speech promising major changes in the economy.

Li said there would be "drastic reforms" in China over the next 10 years, according to businessmen attending a conference organised by the World Economic Forum, a private Swiss-based foundation.

"He was trying to convey the message that in the next years there would be major reforms. He wanted to dispel any impression of stalemate or lost momentum," one Western businessman said.

The communist leadership wanted China's rural and urban private sector to expand, Li was quoted as saying.

Price reform, a sensitive issue which has been put on the back burner during a two-year austerity programme, would go ahead with the aim of eventually allowing all commodity prices to be dictated by the market and not the

Pan Am sells key assets to UAL

NEW YORK (AP) — Pan Am Corp., one of the weakest of U.S. airlines, will sell important transatlantic routes and other assets to larger rival UAL Corp. for \$400 million, the companies announced Tuesday.

The agreement came after fruitless efforts by Pan Am to find a merger partner or buyer for the airline. Pan Am pioneered world air travel more than a half-century ago but lost hundreds of millions of dollars over the past decade of heightened competition inspired by airline deregulation.

It also marks a major expansion by UAL, the parent of Chicago-based United Airlines, which bought Pan Am's prized Pacific routes five years ago for \$750 million.

Executives of both airlines, announcing the transaction at a news conference, said it provides for UAL to acquire Pan Am's U.S.-London routes, except for those landing in Miami and Detroit.

It also provides for UAL to buy gates, hangar and office space at San Francisco and Washington's Dulles International Airport, two Boeing 747 jumbo jets and spare parts.

The agreement coincided with increased financial pressure on all airlines because of a spectacular jump in fuel prices caused by the Gulf crisis. Most carriers have raised ticket prices to help deflect the cost but many are expected to lose money or barely break even for the rest of the year.

Pan Am's problems have been compounded by its protracted losses preceding the Gulf crisis, as well as a summer dispute with union employees.

Gulf countries reportedly cancel \$7b Egyptian debt

CAIRO (R) — Four Gulf states have cancelled some \$7.7 billion owed by Egypt, Egyptian newspapers said, while Cairo expressed optimism Congress would this week decide to write off a further \$7.1 billion owed to the United States.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday he was optimistic U.S. legislators would endorse a plan by President George Bush to write off Cairo's military debt.

"That would relieve us of annual payments of \$1.2 billion," Mubarak told Egyptian troops deployed in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Egyptian state-run dailies said Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's toppled government had all decided to cancel the Egyptian debt.

The U.S. Senate Friday approved Bush's request. The White House asked for forgiveness of the debt in recognition for the economic hardship incurred by Egypt as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and for its support of the U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

A senior Egyptian official told Reuters last week talks on cancelling Egypt's debt to Gulf states were under way.

Egypt, Washington's closest Arab ally, is the largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel, but often suffers acute shortages of the hard currency needed to service loans and finance food imports. It receives about \$2.3 billion of U.S. economic and military aid annually.

Cairo has said it stands to lose some \$4.5 billion in falling Suez Canal and tourism revenue, lost trade with Iraq and Kuwait, and a cut in remittances by some two million Egyptians working in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mubarak, who is on a Gulf tour, said the drive to have Egypt's debts cancelled was not linked to the Gulf crisis and Cairo's participation in the U.S.-led military buildup in the region.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team is holding talks in Cairo on economic reforms in return for a standby accord which would allow Egypt to start negotiations to reschedule part of its \$50 billion foreign debt.

Egyptian officials said the two sides were close to an agreement and that rescheduling with the Paris Club of creditor nations could start before the end of the year.

Motorola unveils wireless computer connections

NEW YORK (AP) — Motorola Inc. unveiled radio technology Tuesday that it says will easily connect computers and other electronic gear inside buildings and eliminate office wiring.

"The technology makes possible a whole family of high-speed wireless communications systems and components to be introduced by the company over the next decade," Motorola said in showing off the wireless in-building network breakthrough at a news briefing in New York.

Bernard Smedley, senior vice president and general manager of the company's radio-telephone systems group, told the briefing the new system "makes high-speed data communications in the office or other in-building environments truly practical, cost effective and achievable."

Several companies already offer wireless computer networks, but they are much slower than wired versions, producing delays in sending information from one computer user to another.

Motorola says it has eliminated this bottleneck in its new wireless in-building network product by using new technologies and radio frequencies allocated by the Federal Communications Commission in April.

In addition, the radio devices used in the Motorola system will

be pocket-sized, while those used in other wireless systems are the size of a dishwasher.

The system will cost more to install than traditional wired computer connections, but it should be lower over the lifetime of such systems because of the rewiring costs later saved when computers are moved, Motorola said.

The system will be so easy to use that an employee could move a computer himself from one area of an office to another just by unplugging it from the radio device.

The technology is similar to that used in cellular phones, but the electronic "cells" are much smaller. Each floor or department of an office building would have a radio transmitter-receiver, which would send data by radio waves to the individual computers in its area. In turn, these transceivers would be linked to each other by radio waves.

The technology is designed to replace the wire used in popular hard-wire computer networking systems, such as the ethernet system developed by Xerox Corp. But it will not replace the networking technology itself — that will still be retained in the computers.

The technology is designed to work with all types and brands of computers.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Wednesday, October 24, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	633.0	657.0	
Pound Sterling	1271.2	1278.8	
Deutsche mark	430.8	433.4	
Swiss franc	510.5	513.6	
French franc			128.7
Japanese yen (for 100)			509.7
Dutch guilder			382.0
Swedish crown			116.3
Italian lira (for 100)			57.5
Belgian franc (for 10)			208.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.9440/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1700/10	Canadian dollar	
	1.5190/95	Deutsche mark	
	1.7115/25	Dutch guilder	
	1.2790/2800	Swiss franc	
	31.21/26	Belgian franc	
	5.0830/80	French franc	
	1157/1138	Italian lire	
	128.85/95	Japanese yen	
	5.6300/50	Swedish crown	
	5.9045/95	Norwegian crown	
	5.7975/8025	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	370.50/371.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks closed lower as investors took advantage of a weaker yen to take profits. The Nikkei index was down 421.42 to 24,876.88.

SYDNEY — A slide on Wall Street overnight and losses on the Tokyo market sent Australian shares to a weaker close in lifeless trade. The all ordinaries index closed 6.4 down at 1376.7.

HONG KONG — Profit-taking in response to a surge on Tuesday dragged stocks generally lower. The Hong Seng index ended 39.15 lower at 3,042.08.

SINGAPORE — The Singapore stock market closed on a mixed note as buyers returned in the afternoon to erase early losses. The Straits times ended 1.05 points higher at 1,210.95.

BOMBAY — Stockbrokers boycotted trading on the Bombay stock exchange for the second day in protest against a ban on forward trading.

FRANKFURT — German prices ended a volatile session lower, as a strong mid-session rally sputtered and prices, which had been up 1.2 per cent earlier, ended 1.4 per cent lower. The Dax index dropped 20.52 points to 1,493.82.

PARIS — Higher oil prices and profit-taking helped knock the Paris bourse lower in slow trading on the first day of the November account. The CAC-40 index fell 8.93 to 1,667.24.

LONDON — The market fell, depressed by the lower start to Wall Street and higher oil prices. Marks and Spencer ended down ahead of next week's half-year results while chemical stocks were easier ahead of Thursday's ICI third quarter results. The FTSE finished at 2,110.5, down 16.5 points.

NEW YORK — Blue chips moved a bit higher while the broad market remained under pressure in early afternoon. The Dow rose about nine to 2503.

Institutes forecast rise in joblessness in eastern Germany

BONN, Germany (AP) — Nearly half of the workers in what was once East Germany may lose their jobs or be forced to shorten their hours by next year, Germany's five leading economic institutes have said.

It was one of the gloomiest employment forecasts ever for the east of Germany.

The institutes also said economic growth is slowing in what used to be West Germany, and that growth for the whole nation will likely reach only 1.5 per cent in 1991.

Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann and Finance Minister Theo Waigel said investment in East Germany will quickly lead to the creation of new jobs.

The five institutes said about 1.1 million people in former East Germany are known to be either jobless or working shortened weeks.

The figures are expected to peak next year to 1.7 million jobless and two million working short hours, according to the report. Average numbers for all of next year will probably be about 1.4 million without any work and 1.75 million on shortened work weeks, said the institutes.

Former East Germany has a work force of about 8.4 million. People in eastern Germany are losing their jobs because of the inability of many aging factories and businesses to compete in the new free market.

The report predicted that production in eastern Germany will stabilise by the middle of 1991, but that the job market won't immediately benefit.

The report said the economic transformation of former East Germany is occurring more slowly than expected.

It said the major reasons are a slow rate of privatisation, questions of property ownership, the continued existence of "monopolistic operations" and difficulties in "building up a public sector that is capable of achievement."

The necessary transformation of the east German economy will need much time, said the report.

The institutes also said a slow down of the world economy and shrinking exports will limit Germany's overall growth.

Kodak brings colour photos to desktop publishing systems

NEW YORK (AP) — Eastman Kodak Co. is bringing its new photographic compact disc to desktop computer publishing with hopes the new technology will catch on with those who want to produce splashy documents with full color pictures and graphics.

Kodak announced Tuesday a line of products and standards that will tie the CDS to the desktop publishing systems that have mushroomed in popularity in recent years. The announcement came a month after Kodak unveiled a system that stores photographs electronically on CDS and displays them on television screens.

Kodak said it is teaming with a number of leading computer and software companies, including International Business Machines Corp., Apple Computer Inc. and Adobe Systems Inc., to help popularise the system.

Kodak also announced a \$1,500 color printer to be used to make paper copies of the photographs and text from IBM and Apple computers and compatible models.

"We see desktop color imaging to be a whole new industry," said John P. White, an executive at the Rochester-based company who is in charge of the new products.

White said Monday the new desktop publishing system is the commercial version of the photo CD system announced in September. In that, amateur photographers would have their film developed and the images put on CDS by professional photo finishers.

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Mahmoud Yassin & Busi
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LICENCE TO KILL
(Arabic)

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema NIJOM Tel: 675571

THE UNTAMED

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9 killed in clashes during strike to bring down Indian government

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least nine people were killed Wednesday in riots and clashes with police during a nationwide strike called by a right-wing Hindu party that is trying to bring down Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government.

Singh said he would try to prove he still can muster a majority in parliament despite the defection of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that left his coalition without a majority. If he cannot, India will soon face new elections.

Singh said his showdown in parliament must be delayed until the first week of November because of "the prevailing law-and-order situation."

The reports of violence during Wednesday's strike came mostly from small cities and towns in western and southern India where both Hindus and Muslims live.

The violence and the political crisis were precipitated when Lal Krishna Advani, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, was arrested at sunrise Tuesday while leading a cross-country caravan to build a Hindu temple on ground now occupied by a 16th-century Muslim mosque.

Five people died Tuesday night in riots in the western state of Gujarat.

Another eight people were killed Wednesday during riots and clashes between police and Hindu demonstrators in Jaipur, the Rajasthan state capital which lies between Gujarat and New Delhi, United News of India (UNI) reported.

One man was stabbed to death during a clash in the southern state of Karnataka, UNI said.

Clashes, stone-throwing and arson also were reported in Bombay and other major towns.

In New Delhi, many stores were closed and the city government pulled its 4,000 buses off the streets. Police stepped up patrols and reported making more than 400 "preventive arrests" in the interest of public safety.

News reports say as many as 50,000 people have been legally detained in the last two weeks in potential trouble spots.

Singh, who took office nearly 11 months ago, told reporters he would try to prove he has the parliamentary majority he needs to remain in power. In the past, his centrist National Front relied on the support of the 88-seat Bharatiya Janata Party to pass

legislation.

The prime minister said President Ramaswamy Venkataraman had agreed to call parliament into session "within a week after Oct. 30."

Oct. 30 is the date set by Hindu holy men and political leaders to start constructing the temple on the site now occupied by a mosque in Ayodhya, 500 kilometres southeast of New Delhi.

Advani ignored Singh's pleas to call off his temple campaign. A few hours after he was arrested, his party withdrew its support for Singh's government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, or Indian People's Party, proclaims itself to be a nationalist organisation that cannot deny the "Hindu nature" of India. Eighty-two per cent of India's 880 million people are Hindus.

Muslims, who make up 12 per cent of the population, fear the destruction or relocation of the Ayodhya mosque would have a snowball effect on hundreds of other Muslim sites across the nation.

Singh took office last December at the head of a minority government whose survival was based on the support of the oppo-

sition extremes of India's political spectrum: Advani's Hindu traditionalists and the left front, a Communist-led alliance of small parties.

The largest single party in parliament is the Congress Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose five years in power ended last November when he failed to win a parliamentary majority.

Singh's National Front won only 141 seats to Gandhi's 210 in the 522-seat parliament. But Singh capitalised on widespread discontent with Gandhi and cobbled together an informal coalition of centrists, Communists and Hindu right-wingers.

Meanwhile Gandhi is once more centre stage in Indian politics as elections appear certain to decide the fate of the man who displaced him as prime minister 11 months ago.

"The picture is still unclear," Gandhi said with a confident smile which belied his words when the BJP withdrew support for Singh's government Tuesday.

Singh will hope to split Gandhi's Congress Party by pressing for a confidence vote in a motion of confidence at special parliamentary session next month.

Multi-party system ruled out in Albania

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Albania, the last hard-line Communist country in Europe, published a draft election law Tuesday that for the first time permits secret ballots and multiple candidacies.

But a legal expert said the reforms were not a prelude to introducing a multi-party system.

The draft law, to be discussed by the current Communist-controlled legislature in November, would permit several candidates to contest each of parliament's 250 seats and allow a

broader range of official organisations to propose candidates than in the past.

Besides the ruling Albanian Labour Party (Communist Party), the draft says the Communist-run Democratic Front Organisation, the Youth Organisation and trade unions can also propose candidates.

The draft measures, plastered across the front of the party daily Zeri i Popullit, also provide for a secret ballot. No date for the elections has been set.

Elizabeth Dole resigning to head American Red Cross

WASHINGTON (AP) — Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole will resign to head the American Red Cross and become the first of President George Bush's cabinet secretaries to step down, an administration source said Tuesday.

Mrs. Dole, 54, the highest-ranking woman in the U.S. government, had been rumoured for months to be considering a move. Late Tuesday, aides had not nailed down a time for the official announcement.

Mrs. Dole was credited by organised labour with easing the hostilities that had existed between unions and the government headed by former President

Ronald Reagan.

Still, she offered few new initiatives and labour leaders complained that she was not a part of the U.S. government's decision-making process.

For instance, John Sununu, Bush's chief of staff, took the lead on last year's minimum wage negotiations with Congress, not Mrs. Dole, Labour officials have said.

An American Red Cross official, Barbara Lohman, said she could not confirm Mrs. Dole's plans to head the organisation, but said a new president was expected to be nominated at a weekend meeting.

Pro-Noriega underground group training in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — A justice official has said that an underground organisation loyal to deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega is training for subversive activities in western Panama.

The group calls itself the December 20 Movement — M-20 for short — and is organised into three camps, the chief prosecutor in Chiriqui province, Emilio de Leon, said in a report to the government.

One camp is located near the Chiriqui village of Las Nubes and another near La Vaca, both a few miles from the border with Costa Rica, the report said. De Leon provided a copy of his report to the Associated Press.

A third is located near the city of David, at the mouth of the Chiriqui River. The report said an estimated 225 men have been recruited into the three camps, which are being supplied with food, weapons and ammunition

smuggled through the sparsely patrolled Costa Rican border.

De Leon said in the report he received his information from sources in Chiriqui province, who insisted on anonymity. The report could not be immediately confirmed through independent sources.

The December 20 Movement takes its name from the date last December when U.S. troops invaded Panama to oust Noriega. Noriega surrendered and was taken to Miami where he is being held for trial on drug trafficking charges.

In what appeared to be a related incident, police said they found a bus Sunday which had M-20 painted on it. Five gunmen had earlier stopped the bus on an isolated mountain road in southwestern Panama.

Police said the 27 people on board the vehicle were stripped of their belongings but were not hurt. The gunmen fled.

Walesa files nominating petitions for election

WARSAW (AP) — Lech Walesa's campaign chief submitted nominating petitions with more than 500,000 signatures Tuesday to the National Election Commission to make official the Solidarity leader's bid for president.

Walesa's main opponent in the race is his former adviser, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. Poland will hold its first popular election for president on Nov. 25.

Meanwhile, Mazowiecki's campaign director said in an interview that the prime minister is ready to face Walesa in a television debate.

"What is important is to make this confrontation fair, showing facts and protagonists addressing real problems," said Henryk Wozniakowski, speaking at Mazowiecki's campaign headquarters. "One should not make

a show, but a real, substantial debate."

Mazowiecki has called for two televised meetings, one dealing with domestic affairs, including the economy, and one limited to foreign affairs. The meetings would be moderated by journalists who would ask the same questions of each candidate.

Walesa's campaign chairman Jacek Merkel said the Solidarity leader is eager to debate Mazowiecki, even though the format has not been decided yet.

"Walesa suggested this debate. We are interested in it very much and we will try to hold it," Merkel said.

Merkel travelled from the Solidarity leader's home city of Gdansk to Warsaw Tuesday with more than 20 parcels and canvas bags full of nominating petitions.

4 killed in violent Philippines strike

MANILA (R) — At least four people were killed Wednesday when radicals with bombs and guns backed a left-wing strike halted transport in major Philippine cities.

Strikers stabbed a driver and conductor to death after burning their bus, one of at least 18 vehicles destroyed around the country. Other radicals shot and wounded three policemen.

Soldiers shot and killed two Communist guerrillas after rebels set fire to a bus north of Manila, officials said.

Unions called the strike to demand a 38-peso (\$1.5) raise in the basic daily wage and the return of oil prices to levels before September average increases of 1.42 pesos (5.4 cents) a litre, which the government says it cannot afford.

General Renato de Villa, armed forces chief of staff, told a news conference the army would stay on full alert to prevent attempts to use the strike to destabilise the government.

Communists wanted to exploit the strike to create "an insurrectionary situation and orders have been issued to their operatives to support (it) with armed activity," he said.

Officials said the military ordered eight battalions of anti-riot troops to Manila to help keep order.

President Corazon Aquino's press secretary said the government would use force if necessary against strikers.

"The aim of these people is to create political instability... that can lead to overthrowing this government," Tomas Gomez told reporters. "We have to defend ourselves... if force is needed to uphold the constitution then force must be (used)."

Police arrested a score of strikers, who threw home-made bombs, blocked roads and barricaded the port.

"They say this is a people's strike but this is no longer a people's strike. This is a strike by the left against the people," Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told a radio interviewer.

Many drivers refused to work. Major bus companies cancelled services. Armed soldiers drove buses but thousands of commuters were stranded.

Only four of the 28 companies in the Bataan export processing zone west of Manila were working, zone officials said.

Officials of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., the country's largest copper producer, said they could not check the mine in Cebu, 570 kilometres south east of Manila, because telephone operators were on strike.

Salvador rebels kill 2 children in botched bomb attack

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Leftist rebels Tuesday killed two children and wounded two other civilians in a botched homemade mortar attack on the Defence Ministry compound.

Two powerful mortar-type bombs fell at dusk about 175 metres short of the sprawling military compound on a house in the neighbourhood of San Francisco.

The bodies of Natalie Salazar, 9, and her brother Gerardo, about 16, were found in the rubble of the big house in the affluent neighbourhood.

Magdalena Salazar, identified by the authorities as the dead children's mother, and Vilma Molina, their aunt, were taken from the home in ambulances.

Some neighbours said they believed the children had been visiting from the United States and could have been U.S. citizens, but embassy authorities said both the fatalities were Salvadorans.

The attack came six days after similar homemade mortars were used in an attack on the main air force base on the capital's eastern edge.

In that attack, rebels of the Parabundo Marti National Liberation Front hit their target with the powerful homemade artillery dubbed "tepecacuitles," a native wild pig.

The bombs are made of refilled propane gas containers filled with explosives. Each one weighs about 40 pounds.

Col. Mauricio Vargas, sub-chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that shares the compound with the Defence Ministry, was asked if the target of the attack was the ministry.

"What should concern us is not what was the target, but the result, the deaths of these children and the destruction," he said.

U.S. plans slow military withdrawal in Asia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviets are withdrawing, Koreans and Filipinos are protesting and costs in Japan are enormous. But the United States says any reduction of its big troop presence in Asia will be slow and limited.

Critics accuse the U.S. Defence Department of looking for new threats now that the Soviet Union has begun major pullouts of troops, ships and aircraft east of the Ural Mountains.

Backers of a strong U.S. force say it will prevent any country from dominating the region and ensure that the world's richest trade routes remain open.

In February, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney announced a 10 per cent cut in Asian-based troops over three years, and the latest round of planned bases closings includes nine small facilities in South Korea and one in Japan.

A U.S. military spokesman in Hawaii, Lt. Col. Thomas Boyd, said very few soldiers actually have been removed from Asia to date.

"We're still in the stage of deciding who's going to be moved," he said.

Cheney says the bulk of American forces will stay.

"I think our presence in the Western Pacific is in everybody's interest," he said in a speech last

IRA kills 6 British soldiers, injures 27 in blasts

BELFAST (R) — The IRA killed six British soldiers and injured 27 people in simultaneous bomb attacks on two Northern Ireland security checkpoints Wednesday.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, admitted responsibility in a statement for killing five soldiers in Londonderry and another in an attack on a post near the border town of Newry.

In the bloodiest attack on British security forces in Northern Ireland this year, civilians were forced to drive vehicles loaded and primed with explosives to the checkpoints, police said.

Police said the man forced to drive his bomb-laden car to the Londonderry checkpoint was missing. His car was obliterated when the bomb went off. He and his family had been taken hostage earlier.

In Newry, a 65-year-old man was forced to drive a van to the checkpoint after his family was also taken hostage. As he stopped, he got out and shouted: "There's a bomb in the van."

Before police and troops had time to clear the area, the bomb exploded, killing one soldier and injuring 10. The driver's leg was broken.

British forces had been expecting a major revenge attack after undercover soldiers shot dead two leading IRA gunmen in an ambush two weeks ago.

The blasts appear to have been carefully coordinated by two separate "active service units" eager to prove that attacks can be mounted when and where they choose.

Police and army spokesmen said six soldiers were killed in the pre-dawn blasts. Fifteen members of the security forces and 12 civilians were injured.

Rescue services ferrying casualties to hospital by helicopter had to be wary in case booby-trap bombs had been left behind to trap security forces in follow-up operations.

In Londonderry, three soldiers were killed instantly when a massive blast ripped through the security checkpoint. Two more died on the way to hospital and six are in hospital in serious condition.

A passing motorist was treated for shock and 25 neighbouring houses were extensively damaged. Hundreds of families had to be evacuated from their homes.

Cattle dealer Paddy Collins, who lives near the Newry checkpoint, said: "We were in bed. There was an awful bang and blue lightning outside."

"All the windows came in. We were afraid to go out. But we heard soldiers running outside, literally screaming. They were frightened for their lives."

He, his wife and three children were showered with glass from shattered windows. "It is a miracle none of us were hurt. I feel lucky to be alive," he said.

Security reinforcements promptly saturated the area and helicopters swooped low over the scene of the blast.

Traffic to Dublin was diverted off the main border road and long queues built up at other crossings as surveillance increased sharply.

Belgium blames Rwandan rebels for truce violation

NAIROBI (R) — Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said Wednesday the Rwandan government had told him it had begun a ceasefire against a rebel force in the northeast, but said the rebels had already violated the truce.

"Foreign Minister Casimir Bizimungu told me in a telephone call that Rwanda accepted a ceasefire from 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) today. But he said that unfortunately the ceasefire has already been violated by the rebels," Eyskens told reporters in Nairobi.

A rebel force consisting mainly of exiled members of Rwanda's minority Tutsi tribe who deserted the Ugandan army invaded the small central African state from neighbouring Uganda on Oct. 1.

Eyskens, in Nairobi with Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Defence Minister Guy Coombs to press for a ceasefire, said Bizimungu had told him the rebels' violation pointed up the need for a monitoring force to ensure the truce was observed.

"Belgium believes this should be an African force, probably arranged through the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)," Eyskens said.

"We think an efficient ceasefire is a precondition to negotiations."

He said Belgium would be prepared to provide logistical and financial support to a monitoring force, but not troops.

Eyskens said the Rwandan government had apparently accepted the rebel condition that military positions be frozen for the duration of the ceasefire.

"As I understand it there is no demand (by Rwanda) for a withdrawal of the rebels, so it is an on-the-spot ceasefire," Eyskens said.

On Monday, President Juvenal

Habyarimana suggested a ceasefire would be unacceptable to Rwanda unless rebels withdrew from their positions in the northeast.

It was not immediately clear whether Rwanda had accepted the rebel proposal for a ceasefire lasting three weeks, or whether they planned a different time-scale.

Martens, who said Tuesday the rebels were suggesting a three-week truce, said he did not know whether the Rwandan government had agreed to this duration.

Belgium, the former colonial power in Rwanda, sent 600 paratroopers to the capital Kigali on Oct. 5 to protect Belgian nationals.

Martens, whose coalition government has been under strain over the presence of the paratroopers, held a series of meetings with leaders of the region last week to press for a ceasefire.

"If a ceasefire is a reality it is due in great part to our initiative," he said Wednesday before flying home with his two ministers.

Martens had returned to the region this week for meetings with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

He said it was impossible to say when the Belgian troops would leave. A decision would be taken at a Belgian cabinet meeting Friday.

Last week the Belgian government said the paratroopers would remain until a ceasefire was in place.

Meanwhile Habyarimana, Museveni, Mwinyi and Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko were meeting Wednesday in the Zairean town of Gbadolite to discuss the conflict.

300 hurt in Bangladesh anti-government protest

DHAKA (AP) — Protesters calling for President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's resignation clashed with police and government supporters during nationwide demonstrations, leaving 300 people injured, news reports said Wednesday.

Violence broke out in at least 25 of Bangladesh's 640 rural districts Tuesday in opposition-sponsored protests, United News of Bangladesh and the Bengali-language newspaper Sangbad reported.

The demonstrations outside Dhaka were intended to broaden the opposition's renewed campaign for Ershad to step down and call a general election under

a caretaker government.

The Sangbad reported that 250 people were injured in the north and northwestern areas of Mymensingh, Narail, Madaripur,

Sirajganj, Ishwardi and Rajshahi.

According to United News, another 50 people were injured in the southern district of Chittagong when students rampaged through the streets, damaging buses and cars and stoning police.

Most injuries occurred when police used steel-tipped batons to disperse the students, it said.

Eight protesters were killed earlier this month during rioting in the capital.

Burma spruces up prison for U.N. investigator's visit

BANGKOK (AP) — Burmese authorities are preparing for the visit of a human rights expert by sprucing up the notorious Insein Prison, and preparing a videotape on the nation's leading dissident, a source said Wednesday.

The Independent United Nations expert, Sadako Ogata of Japan, is to investigate charges that soldiers torture political opponents at the prison, and will examine the government's failure to probe the 1988 killings of thousands of pro-democracy demonstrators, a U.N. spokesman in New York said earlier this month.

Mrs. Ogata is expected to visit Rangoon in early November, although the date of her arrival

has not yet been announced, according to the Rangoon source who requested anonymity in a telephone interview from Bangkok.

Meanwhile, workmen have been whitewashing the walls of Insein Prison, the maximum security facility just outside Rangoon that she is expected to visit, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.N. investigator also is expected to ask to meet with Burma's leading dissident, Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest even though her National League for Democracy won a majority of seats in May's parliamentary elections.

COLUMN

Tahiti will not turn over Cheyenne Brando for trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — French authorities in Tahiti are refusing to turn over actor Marlon Brando's daughter Cheyenne to be witness at the murder trial of her half-brother, accused of killing her boyfriend, a California prosecutor said Tuesday. Deputy district attorney William Clark told reporters he had asked Tahitian authorities to release Cheyenne, 20, but they had insisted on going through diplomatic channels. The former fashion model was to have been the prosecution's star witness in the case against Christian Brando, a 32-year-old unemployed welder accused of shooting to death Cheyenne's 26-year-old boyfriend, Dag Drollet. Authorities in Tahiti, which is a French Polynesia, are investigating Cheyenne's role in the death of Drollet, who is a Tahitian, and have laid charges against her in connection with the killing. Cheyenne, who was born in Tahiti and is a French citizen, went to Tahiti shortly after the shooting to have her baby, fathered by Drollet. Christian, Marlon Brando's eldest son, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Drollet during an argument last May at the actor's Hollywood mansion. He told police the gun went off accidentally as he and Drollet struggled.

2 more Soviet cities get original names

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian parliament has decided to give their original names to two more cities. TASS news agency said Tuesday. The eastern city Gorky will revert to being called Nizhny Novgorod. Parliament also endorsed a decision by the Autonomous Republic of North Ossetia that Ordzhonikidze should once again be called Vladikavkaz.

Princess Anne banned from driving

LONDON (R) — Princess Anne was fined £150 (\$295) and banned from driving for a month after she was caught speeding twice near her home in south-west England. It was the second speeding conviction for the 49-year-old princess, Queen Elizabeth's only daughter, and the latest in a series of traffic violations by members of the royal family. A court in the country town of Stow-On-The-Wold also ordered the princess, who admitted the charges through her lawyers, to pay £10 (\$20) in costs. Traffic police caught her breaking the 60 miles per hour (97 km per hour) limit twice in one week along country roads near Gatcombe Park, her Gloucestershire home, clocking her at 90 mph (145 km) on one occasion. Princess Anne, who drives a Reliant Scimitar sports car, was fined in 1976 for driving at nearly 100 mph (160 km) on a British motorway. Five years earlier she had been warned twice for racing along motorways. Her lawyers said the princess, who was not in court, regretted the latest offences. Several other British royals have had brushes with the traffic police. Princess Diana, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, was caught driving at nearly twice the speed limit in London earlier this month but got off with a warning.

Church singer's voice lands her in jail

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (R) — All Eljio Macias wanted to do was to sing hymns in church, even if she invented her own lyrics and her voice contrasted with those of the choir — and it landed her in jail. When the 34-year-old parishioner walked to the altar at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas, and began to sing, Father Alexander Wangler had her arrested. The parish priest had obtained an injunction from state district Judge John Specia barring Macias from singing at mass after the woman, a member of the congregation for more than a year, allegedly disrupted the choir's performances by singing her own off-key interpretations of hymns. She was taken to Bexar County Jail but Father Wangler paid a \$400 bond to secure her release after extracting from Macias a promise that she would remain silent during services. Macias says God commanded her to sing in the church, using lyrics the pastor says contrast with the choir's efforts, but parishioners spoke disparagingly of her musical efforts. "The Father can't prohibit me from being where I want to be," Macias told reporters before her arrest. "I shouldn't be blamed for having a voice different than others."